

BEIJING REVIEW

- China's Literature and Art: Discussion
On Major Issues
- An Interview With the Chief Procurator
 - Visiting Lao Refugee Camps in Thailand



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CONTENTS

CHRONICLE 2

EVENTS & TRENDS 3

Readjustment Yields Positive Results
A Large Gold Mine
When the Peasants Get Better Off
Rebuilding Tangshan After Earthquake
China Wins Asian Men's Volleyball Title
For More Language Specialists
Viet Nam Continues Armed Provocations

SPECIAL FEATURE

Literature and Art:
The Last Three Years—Our Correspondent Ling Yang 7
Discussion on Major Issues 10
Is There Freedom of Literary Creation? 11
Literature as a Mirror of Life 12
Discarding the Unwanted and Retaining the Essence 13
Should the Door Be Opened or Kept Closed? 14
Fostering Mass Cultural Life 15
For Your Reference: An Organization of Chinese Writers and Artists 15

ARTICLES AND DOCUMENTS

China's Procuratorates—An interview with Chief Procurator Huang Huoqing 16
Procuratorates in Beijing 18
Visiting Lao Refugee Camps in Thailand—Xinhua Correspondents Chen Boliang and Liu Zhengchu 20
Unstable Situation in Guatemala—Xin Ping 21
South Africa's "Constellation" Programme—Xin Ping 22
Foreign Investments in the United States Increase 23

ROUND THE WORLD 24

ON THE HOME FRONT 25

LETTERS FROM READERS 27

SUBJECT INDEX (Nos. 27-52, 1979) I-XII

COVER: At the Fourth National Congress of Chinese Writers and Artists held recently in Beijing, delegates discussed how to bring about the flourishing of socialist culture and art in China (see p. 7). Picture shows actors and actresses of various nationalities chatting during an interval.

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CHRONICLE

December 18

• Ji Pengfei, Head of the International Liaison Department of the C.P.C. Central Committee, met with a delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist League of West Germany led by Hans Gerhart Schmieder, Secretary of the Central Committee.

December 21

• A delegation of the C.P.P.C.C. National Committee led by Yang Jingren, Vice-Chairman of the C.P.P.C.C. National Committee, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Minister in Charge of the Nationalities Affairs Commission, returned to Beijing after a friendly visit to Romania.

• A new Chinese edition of the late American writer Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China* was published.

December 22

• The first Xianggang-Beijing chartered flight for tourists arrived at Beijing Airport after a 3-hour flight.

December 23

• A ceremony was held in Beijing to present awards to young people for their exhibits at the current national youth scientific exhibition. Also commended were 1,114 exhibits and 40 scientific reports and papers. This was done with a view to encouraging young people to love, study and apply science.

• *Renmin Ribao* frontpaged a letter from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to Premier Hua Guofeng. The letter was a reply to Premier Hua's message to the United Nations International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People, expressing the Chinese people's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle.



Readjustment Yields Positive Results

Socialist modernization involves large-scale capital construction. Though much has been achieved in this respect in the past several years, some problems have also arisen. The most obvious one is that there are too many capital construction projects, which causes a dispersion of financial and material resources over a wide front. The result is that it will take many years before many projects can be completed and put into operation.

It has been decided early this year to devote three years or more to readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the national economy. An important part of readjustment is the cancellation or postponement of a number of projects so efforts can be concentrated on the urgently needed ones. These include some key projects with up-to-date equipment and technology, and the coal, power, oil and building materials industries and the transport services all of which are the weak links, and light industry, the textile industry and housing construction which directly concern the people's livelihood.

Readjustment has yielded encouraging results.

Gansu Province. At the beginning of this year there were 1,137 projects under construction, each with an investment of over 50,000 yuan. As investment in heavy industry took up too great a share, that earmarked for agriculture and light industry and for the direct im-

provement of the people's livelihood had to be reduced.

To remedy this situation, the provincial authorities decided to curtail the expansion of heavy industry and machine-building industry and use the money for the light and textile industries and housing projects. It was decided to cancel or postpone 76 projects under construction for lack of verified hydrological and geological data and ascertained resources or lack of a ready market for their products and the supply of raw materials. This has saved the province 380 million yuan, or one-fourth of the total investment in the projects under construction.

At the same time, planned new projects were re-examined. Those which were not urgently needed were slashed. Money, materials and manpower thus saved were rationally distributed for the building of key projects. As a result, projects which had been delayed a long time were completed very quickly.

Many projects were built with a small investment, and a speed and quality that had been rare in the past. By the end of last October, living quarters with a total floor space of over 500,000 square metres had been built. This year housing construction got a larger amount of investment and proceeded at a faster pace than in any other year since liberation in 1949.

Jilin Province. In this province, projects of varying sizes under construction at the beginning of this year numbered 1,540, of which 337 required an investment of more than a million yuan each. This scale of capital construction was actually far beyond the local capabilities. To concentrate efforts on the key projects, the construction of 304 projects was cancelled or postponed, 93 of these requiring an investment of over a million yuan each. This accelerated the construction of the others. Of the 59 key projects planned for this year, 10 were wholly or



The newly built Lanzhou Vinylon Works in northwest China's Gansu Province, which produces enough vinylon short fibres each year for making 46 million metres of cloth, that is to say, enough material for a jacket for each person in the province.

partially completed and were operating at the end of October. New dwelling houses completed had a total floor space of 540,000 square metres.

By adopting these measures, the capital construction projects, though reduced in number, are placed on a more solid basis. People describe this as throwing off the heavy load on the back so as to go faster.

A Large Gold Mine

A large gold mine is under construction in west Henan Province in central China.

An ore dressing plant with a daily capacity of 250 tons has been built in the mining area which covers 400 square kilometres; two more plants are under construction. When they are completed, the annual production of gold here will be 100,000 *liang* (1 *liang* equals 31.25 grammes).

The mine which has a rich deposit of high-quality gold was first found in 1964. So far seven big or medium-sized mining centres have been located, the biggest having a deposit of 30 tons of workable gold reserves.

The mining area is linked to other parts of the country by railways and highways. Workers' living quarters and other facilities are being built.

China has rich mineral deposits. Surveying is in full swing. It is reported that at the 900-year-old Zhaoyuan mine in coastal Shandong Province, 250 more tons of gold reserves were recently located. Zhaoyuan is one

of China's major suppliers of gold.

When the Peasants Get Better Off....

The current rural policy, which helps the peasants to improve their economic conditions, has speeded construction, improved the relation between the Party and the peasants, and consolidated the socialist system in the countryside. These conclusions are drawn in a report on six counties in the Heihe Prefecture on the banks of the Heilong River, published in *Renmin Ribao*. Concrete manifestations are:

— With restrictions on distribution removed, income for work in the production teams far exceeds that from work done individually. As a result, the commune members' enthusiasm for collective labour is higher than ever before.

— There is now a strong desire for expanded production

in the countryside. Many production brigades have money ready for purchasing farm machines so as to increase production. The demand for chemical fertilizer is also rising.

— Richer production brigades are helping the poorer ones to catch up. For instance, the Caojitun Production Brigade which is now quite well-off has extended interest-free loans to the tune of 100,000 yuan to help eight poor production brigades raise their level of mechanization.

— Purchasing power in the countryside has greatly risen. There is a brisk demand for quality dress materials, wrist-watches and good furniture. Some commune members are buying cameras and motorcycles, and some say they will buy TV sets as soon as a relay station is set up in their neighbourhood. Some production brigades are planning to buy trucks and motor-coaches to take the commune members to the fields.



Huang Xinwen, a peasant in Guangdong Province, and his family take an active part in collective labour and engage in household side-line occupations during their spare hours. With an increased income, they have bought, among other things, a television set. Picture shows Huang and his family watching the TV.

—The difference between city and countryside is narrowing. In production teams with an average annual earning of over 300 yuan for each member, the life of the peasants is better than that of the majority of workers in the cities, as meat and vegetables are sold by their teams at reduced prices and there is no rent for housing.

Many households have wells with hand-operated pumps, armchairs or sofas and wardrobes. Peasants of the well-off production teams each year consume 15 to 20 kilogrammes of meat, 6 to 8 kilogrammes of edible oil and a greater amount of eggs and fish than urban residents. Their clothing is as good as that of the people in the cities. They see films two to three times a week, and more and more people now subscribe to newspapers and magazines.

The gang of four had the queer "theory" that when the peasants get rich, capitalism will emerge. Facts have proved the contrary. When the peasants are not allowed to get rich, they can see no tangible proof of the superior character of socialism, and their enthusiasm cannot be aroused. On the other hand, when they are well-off, they can see for themselves the bright prospect of socialism, and they will make greater efforts in production and do more for socialism.

Rebuilding Tangshan After Earthquake

What has become of Tangshan three and a half years after a strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale hit that industrial city on July 28, 1976, which resulted in 242,000 people killed and 164,000 seriously injured?

Housing. A new city is rapidly rising on the debris. By the end of this year, it is estimated, about 39,000 new flats will have been built. By the end of October, 820,000 square metres of the 2.76 million square metres of floor space under construction had been completed, and in October alone 1,400 families had moved to their new houses. So far, 24,000 families had been given new accommodations this year. All the flats have central heating and tap water. Rent is charged at the rate of 0.08 yuan per square metre of living space. It is expected that 730,000 urban residents will have moved into new homes by the end of 1982.

Rows of new buildings have gone up in the city. In addition to apartments, there are schools, shops, restaurants, post offices, bookstores, kindergartens, theatres, cinemas, barber-shops, bathhouses and other facilities.

Large-scale reconstruction of the city began in early 1978. Over 2,300 technicians from all parts of the country gathered there to take part in the work of surveying and designing. Twenty-two factories turning out prefabricated building materials were constructed.

Production Restored. Nearly all the 338 enterprises in Tangshan, including the Kailuan Coal Mine, were damaged during the quake. After the debris was removed, a unified plan for reconstruction was mapped out. While some factories are being rebuilt in the city with permanent or semi-permanent buildings, a number of others have moved to a new industrial area, including a textile mill and a dyeing mill. Construction

China Wins Asian Men's Volleyball Title

At the 2nd Asian Men's Volleyball Championship in Bahrain, the Chinese men's team on December 23 won the championship title after defeating the south Korean men's team (3:0) which came fourth at last year's World Volleyball Championship and was the champion at the last Asian Games. China, therefore, will represent Asia in the volleyball finals at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

of 40 other factories will start in 1980 and 1981.

When the earthquake hit the Tangshan Rolling Stock Plant, 4,700 workers were killed or injured. The 3,000 survivors have restored production in makeshift workshops with the help of the People's Liberation Army. A new plant is under construction. It will be completed in 1984 and will have an annual production capacity of 100 diesel locomotives of 2,000 h.p. and 100 passenger coaches.

For More Language Specialists

With the progress of the four modernizations and increase in international exchanges, China needs a large number of foreign-language specialists.

According to a general survey made earlier this year, of the 222,273 persons proficient in 56 foreign languages throughout the country, 33,330 are not employed in that work. This figure is nine times the number



Liu Shizhong (right), who lives in the city of Tianjin, has mastered five foreign languages through self-study. He has been invited to be a translator in the Tianjin Foreign Languages Institute.

of this year's college graduates who majored in foreign languages. Some are working as accountants and some as nurses, packers and guards and various other trades and professions.

This is partly caused by the ultra-Left line of persecuting and discriminating against intellectuals in the past.

Measures are being taken to eliminate the shortage in foreign-language personnel. Apart from raising the level of those now engaged in this work, readjustments are being made so that those specialized in foreign languages can put their knowledge to good use.

In Shanghai, the largest industrial city in China, 412 such people have been reassigned to new jobs.

In Hangzhou, the famous scenic city in east China, 77 people have been transferred to new posts requiring a good knowledge of foreign languages.

One of them is Cai Huihua, formerly a nurse who learnt Japanese as a child from her Japanese mother. She has been reassigned to teach Japanese at a university.

Various other steps are being taken to put into use as many as possible those foreign-language personnel scattered in society. The Shanghai Teachers' University recruited 42 such people as teachers through examinations. The Baoshan Iron and Steel Works now under construction and the Jinshan General Petrochemical Plant have employed 171 people to be translators of technical material.

Viet Nam Continues Armed Provocations

The Vietnamese authorities have recently stepped up their armed provocations along the China-Viet Nam border and created incidents of bloodshed.

On December 18, the Chinese Foreign Ministry lodged a strong protest against the Vietnamese armed provocations.

On December 13 over 100 armed Vietnamese personnel intruded into Malipo County in Yunnan Province. They killed or wounded a number of Chinese border inhabitants and workers of a farm and destroyed some houses. The Chinese frontier guards and militia there were forced to hit back in self-defence and drove the Vietnamese aggressor troops out of Chinese territory. In November and the first ten days of December, more than 300 cases of armed provocations were committed by the Vietnamese in China's Guangxi and Yunnan border areas, and

dozens of Chinese were killed or wounded.

While the Vietnamese side was making armed provocations along the border, it talked glibly at the negotiation table about the conclusion of an agreement on non-provocation by both sides.

At the 15th plenary meeting of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations held on December 19, Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem bragged that Viet Nam "has never been so powerful as it is today." Regarding Viet Nam's invasion of Kampuchea and control of Laos, he said that "Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea have never been so friendly and united as they are today." He also attacked China for its support to Thailand.

China resolutely opposes Viet Nam's aggression and threat against its neighbours. Since Viet Nam is threatening Thailand and encroaching on its territory, China naturally supports Thailand in its resistance. This is the principled stand of socialist China. It is absolutely impossible for the Vietnamese authorities to force China to change its stand through repeated armed provocations.



Literature and Art

The Last Three Years

Our Correspondent Ling Yang

THE 18-day congress was really a grand get-together for people of literary and art circles. This was in no small measure due to the large number of delegates, their frank, open talks and heated debates. It indicated that the ten-year-long cultural autocracy which began in 1966 had been shattered at last, although some of its influence still remained. Of course it is still much too early to say that China's literature and art have reached the stage in which flowers of art are in full bloom. Nevertheless, the changes in the last three years are tremendous.

The Third National Congress of Writers and Artists held in 1960 confirmed the policies of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend and of weeding through the old to bring forth the new, in the orientation of serving the workers, peasants and soldiers and socialism. This opened up a correct, broad avenue for developing creative socialist literature and art.

But these policies were never really followed. And worse still, the ten-year tumult caused by Lin Biao and the gang of four brought socialist literature and art to the brink of extinction.

How are things now? What does the future hold? Many feel that the rejuvenation of the once-withered garden of socialist literature and art has been swift and there is a bright future for them.

Rejuvenation

Immediately after the gang of four was toppled in October 1976, cartoons, out of sight for years, reappeared, as did *xiang sheng*, a kind of comic dialogue. These media exposed, as satirical as any, the gang to be a group of pseudo-revolutionaries. They gave vent to the indignation which had accumulated in people's hearts and expressed the happiness of victory over the gang.

Revolutionary poems emerged like mushrooms after rain. They celebrated the October victory of toppling the gang of four, cherished

CHINA'S Fourth National Congress of Writers and Artists was held from October 30 to November 16 in Beijing, with an attendance of 3,200. It included writers, playwrights, artists, dancers, choreographers, composers, musicians, actors, actresses, literary critics and researchers in the field of literature and art. Together they drew on their experiences and lessons of the last three decades in discussions on how to create a flourishing socialist literature and art in our country.

Zhou Yang, Chairman of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, summarized the results in a report to the congress. (See *Beijing Review*, No. 50, for its highlights.)

One of our correspondents went to visit the writers and artists at the congress and listened to many of the speeches by the delegates at the meetings. The articles printed here are based on what she saw and heard.

the memory of the late Premier Zhou and other veteran revolutionaries of the older generation, and expressed the people's lofty aspirations for modernization. A wide readership found them impressive, as did the audiences which heard them during recitals and radio or TV programmes.

The creation of novels, short stories in particular, and reportage began to increase. Many writers broke through the confines set by Jiang Qing and her like. Some even broke taboos which were imposed in the late fifties. Thus subject-matter, theme, style and form become diversified. Many works help readers understand more deeply their misery in the ten-year tumult, such as *The Class Teacher* and *The Wound*. Others like *Director Qiao Assumes Office* provide food for thought as they pene-



Chairman Hua chatting with artists at a tea party.

tratingly expose the negative aspects of present-day Chinese society.

In drama, the past three years could be said to be the most active years since the founding of New China. More than 200 plays were written. The Beijing stage has averaged a new play a week since the beginning of the year. Many of them, such as *The Future Is Calling* and *First Blossom of Springtime*, have aroused an enthusiastic response among audiences for dealing with prominent contradictions in real life today. Various new local operas have also been created while plays on traditional themes have been revised and restaged.

The backward film industry has had a new lease of life. The films which new directors, script writers, actors and actresses produced have attracted wide attention. New films like *From Slave to General*, *Ji Hongchang* and *Xiao Hua* are well

received because they have broken away from the old stereotyped way of making films.

Nearly 20 modern operas have been created in the last three years. Oh, *Starlight* has something new in combining traditional Chinese methods of presentation with European stage practices.

As for dance-drama, around ten have been staged in Beijing in recent years. Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and other revolutionary leaders were portrayed. Already staged include *The Expedition*, an episode from *Gesser* (a Tibetan epic), *Zhaoshutun* and *Nanmuruona* (a folk story of the Dai nationality

about the love of a Dai prince for the Peacock Princess), *Banping Mountain* (a fairy tale about how Taiwan became geographically separated from the mainland) and *The Little Match-Girl* by Andersen. *Princess Wencheng* tells of a Tang Dynasty princess who married the King of Tibet 1,300 years ago, and dancing in the murals of ancient grottoes have reappeared in the present-day dance-drama *Tales of the Silk Road*. Folk dances of the Han nationality, unique dances of the minority nationalities and classical Western ballet vied with each other on the stage in presenting moving stories.

In the fine arts, the murals of the new Beijing International Airport are among the outstanding achievements. The artists integrated traditional ways of painting murals with modern technique in presenting the spirit of the new era, and some of them brought out their own personal style of painting.



In addition, new successes have been achieved in the field of *quyi* (story-telling and cross-talk), puppet shows, acrobatics, shadow plays and ever increasingly popular photography.

More Valuable Than Works

More valuable than the artistic works mentioned is the fact that Chinese writers and artists have regained their creative vigour in these years. A large number of writers and artists who were falsely accused have been rehabilitated. Many of the wrongly criticized works have been republished. The various mental shackles imposed on writers and artists during the cultural autocracy from 1966 to 1976 and even before have been removed. Although many problems and difficulties still remain, the atmosphere is more relaxed and the conditions for creative writing and acting are much better than three years ago.



Playwright Cao Yu (first, left), playwright Yang Hansheng (second, left) and novelist Ding Ling (first, right).



Two young Tibetan artists Sangmu (right) and Guanjuema (left) setting out for the meeting place.

The Older Generation. The 69-year-old poet Ai Qing has expressed the feeling of the older generation: "The torrent of the era has brought me to a harbour filled with sunshine. My life now sets out on a new course." After a silence of 22 years, the poet went on a tour for the past year and a half, taking in the steel city and oilfields in the north, and coastal villages and sentry posts in the south. He even visited some countries in Western Europe. The poet gets up at three every morning to write down what he feels, and has already completed some 100 poems, long and short. "But I still have much to say," he told his colleagues.

Ai Qing is only one of the many writers of the older generation determined to make fresh achievements. There were more than 1,000 veteran writers and artists who attended the congress.

The 82-year-old novelist Mao Dun is writing his memoirs. Another man-of-letters, Ba Jin, now 75, completed his translation of the first volume of the memoirs of A.I. Herzen, the Russian thinker, not long ago. Without pausing, he began on a full-length novel about intellectuals, at the same time not neglecting his writing of random notes and memoirs on literary creation.



Tang Yun.

The 79-year-old playwright Xia Yan is helping polish film scripts by young writers. He is of the opinion that China's film making lags ten years behind advanced levels abroad. It is the unshirkable responsibility of the older generation to train the young. It is for this very purpose that the 65-year-old celebrated actor Zhao Dan has finished a book on his acting experiences in different films in the past four decades.

The Young and Middle-Aged. At the congress, these writers and artists were most active.

Bai Hua, a talented poet and playwright in his late forties, is one of the most prolific authors today. Though his hair has begun to turn grey because of the political storms of the past two decades, he, like many of his spirited colleagues, is still a vigorous thinker and brave in probing his way forward. In the past three years, he has written more than ten plays, film scripts, short stories, 3,000 lines of poems, and more than 20 articles and commentaries. "I'm

in good shape," he tells his friends. "I seem to have an inexhaustible source of strength."

Han Meilin, a decorative artist, is good at portraying animals in their various natural postures. He has just had an exhibition of his paintings. He has already published four albums, and plans to publish another three next year, one of which includes 2,000 paintings of animals.

One must not forget the highly acclaimed composer, Shi Guangnan. He was silent during the years when political slogans became verses in songs. Yet in the past two years he has composed no less than 100 lyrics. Among them, *Toasting Song* and *Premier Zhou, Where Are You?* are the most popular. The former expresses the people's joy at the victory over the gang of four, the latter is so moving that tears well up in people's eyes when it is sung.

Though still young, the 30-year-old woman violinist Tang Yun has achieved remarkable success through diligent practice. Her fore-runners at home acclaimed her, so did world-renowned violinists abroad. The records she has made are selling fast throughout the country. But she says: "I still have a lot to learn."

I should like to mention a relatively unknown dancer Wu Meizhen. For some 30 years she has been a coach in a cultural palace for young boys and girls. Many of the children she has coached have grown up to be famous dancers, yet she herself has never been seen on the stage. She lost her husband (a composer) in the ten-year tumult, while she herself was labelled a "reactionary bourgeois authority." She fell seriously ill as a result of all this. She is an old friend of mine, and I wished her all the best in the coming years—health, vigour and vitality. In response, she said: "My only wish is to be with my students!"

Discussion on Major Issues

THIS correspondent had informal talks with many delegates to the recent congress of Chinese writers and artists inside and outside the conference room. She found that agreement had been reached on fundamental political objectives and matters of principle such as the need for literature and art to promote socialist

modernization and for literary and art workers—"architects of the human soul"—to devote their efforts to nurturing new socialist people. But on some theoretical questions, especially on such fundamental questions as how literature and art should serve politics and what methods are best for creating a socialist

literature and art, as well as other specific questions, lively discussions developed among people of different opinions.

Is There Freedom of Literary Creation?

Party leadership is necessary, but it should not be turned into patriarchal rule.

KONG Luosun, chief editor of *Wenyi Bao* (Literary and Art Gazette), a national theoretical journal, said: Literature and art need the Party's leadership and there is no doubt about this. He stressed the need to implement the principle of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and letting a hundred schools of thought contend," which was designed to encourage free development of different artistic forms and



Kong Luosun.

styles and solve questions of right and wrong in the field of art through free exchanges of views.

He recalled that he had listened to Chairman Mao's explanation of this principle in February 1957. But during most of the ensuing two decades, he failed to find any evidence that the principle was being implemented in real earnest. In the beginning, there was a Right trend of thought which tried to turn this principle into that of bourgeois "liberalization." But apart from this, the "Left" tendency in the guiding thought brought great harm to our cause. This "Left" mistake which was later carried to extremes by the gang of four almost strangled the whole undertaking of literature and art.

At the forum held in Beijing in 1981, Kong Luosun recalled, the late Premier Zhou Enlai delivered a long speech (see our issue No. 13,

1979) in which he dealt mainly with how the Party should exercise its leadership in literature and art and gave an explicit and profound exposition on democracy in relation to art. Literary and art workers found his speech tremendously inspiring. The forum laid emphasis on opposing an oversimplified, crude attitude towards creation and criticism in the field of literature and art and called for genuine implementation of the "double hundred" principle.

In Guangzhou in the spring of the following year, Premier Zhou and the late Vice-Premier Chen Yi (marshal and poet) attended a national forum on the creation of dramas and operas. The forum encouraged writers to emancipate their minds and strive to reflect reality so as to bring about a flourishing socialist literature and art. Both the Premier and the Vice-Premier delivered long speeches. The Premier's speech, together with his previous one, scientifically summed up the work of literature and art in the dozen years or so after the founding of New China; it explored ways and means for implementing the "double hundred" principle. The ideas he expressed embodied and enriched Mao Zedong's thinking on literature and art.

These speeches which touched the problems in the field of literature and art at that time were resisted by the "Left" trend of thought. In Shanghai where Kong Luosun was working at the time, literary and art workers in general heard nothing about the forum, let alone understanding what these speeches were about.

Both the positive and negative experiences of the last two decades or more have taught people a lesson. The recent congress of writers and artists emphasized in clear terms that correct Party leadership in literary and art work ought to be one of following the mass line—relying on the masses, including those with special ability in the field. It cannot be a patriarchal leadership that issues orders at personal whim.

Quoting Lenin, Kong Luosun noted that while stressing "literature must become part of the common cause of the proletariat," Lenin also said definitely that "in this field [literature] greater scope must undoubtedly be allowed for personal initiative, individual inclination, thought and fantasy, form and content." The latter principle, for a fairly long period of time in our country, was neglected.

This chief editor, who is also a prose writer and literary critic, went on: Our course has been arduous and tortuous, but conditions are now ripe for truly realizing the "double hundred"

principle and for allowing writers and artists wide scope for their ideas and creativity.

He said the primary task today is to emancipate the mind and break through restrictions. There should be a variety of subject matter for creation without any "forbidden zones." There should also be a variety of characters. One can write about positive, negative, middle and backward characters. Creative methods, too, should also be diversified and writers should enjoy freedom to adopt different creative methods, including realism and romanticism.

It is unavoidable that during the free production of works some coarse unsuitable ones will appear. Our creative undertakings must be aimed at promoting modernization and training new socialist people—but what should be done if and when works emerge which run contrary to this?

The people will not accept them, Kong Luosun said. The problem can be solved by unfolding widespread criticism and exchange of views through free discussions and debates. In doing this, we must encourage the practice of letting a hundred schools of thought contend and avoid putting political labels on people, picking on them and wielding a big stick.

This correspondent feels that *Wenyi Bao*, the theoretical journal which Kong Luosun is responsible for, is publicizing the Party's line and policies and guiding creative effort and criticism in art on to the correct road. Early this year, this journal was the first to publish Premier Zhou's speech delivered in 1962 on democracy in art. It also published many commentaries and reports praising and encouraging the production of works that had made breakthroughs into forbidden zones and had displayed other merits. This journal now has a circulation of 150,000 and enjoys a rather big influence among critics in general.

Literature as a Mirror of

Life

There are both bright aspects and the seamy side of life in a socialist society. Writers should eulogize the bright aspects and expose and criticize the dark.

IT is common knowledge that literature and art are a reflection of life. But why did this

evoke so much lively discussion at the recent congress of writers and artists?

An examination of the 54-year-old writer Liu Binyan's experience may help one find the reason.



Talented writers Liu Binyan (left) and Wang Meng.

Liu Binyan was a newspaper correspondent in the mid-50s with particularly keen insight. Two of his feature stories—"On the Bridge Construction Site" and "Inside Story of Our Press" published in a literary journal—received favourable comment because they exposed the bureaucratic working style of certain cadres. But in 1957, these two works were charged with "directing their spearhead against the socialist system." And he was labelled a bourgeois Rightist and forced to stop writing.

Early this year, the two works, which were included in a collection entitled *Reblooming Flowers*, were once again well received by readers. Today, these two works still reflect the spirit of our times.

Three months ago, the writer published a report entitled "Between Human Beings and Monsters," his first work after an interruption of 20 years or so. This work described how a big gang of embezzlers began its activities in 1966 and was caught in 1979; it also exposed certain social malpractices and the bad working style of some Communists.

The work evoked strong repercussions. In the first month after its publication, the author received several hundred letters voicing strong support. People were anxious to obtain a copy to read at the earliest possible moment and to discuss the author's incisive analysis.

However, the piece has also aroused opposition. The main criticism remains the same:

Discarding the Unwanted and Retaining the Essence

Should literary works lash out at social malpractices? Or in other words, just how should literature reflect real life? Earlier, similar contention arose over works which exposed the trauma caused by the gang of four in different fields and which reflected contradictions and conflicts arising from the present modernization programme.

"Interfere With Life"

As Liu Binyan sees it, literature and art should interfere with life. He said, literature as a reflection of real life should push life forward. Writers should listen to the people's demands, judge them with a high sense of responsibility and truthfully reflect them in their own works. He proposed that literary creation be likened to a ship sailing on the vast sea of life.

Exposing social malpractices does not necessarily mean negating socialism. As the author said, history has proved that what really discredits the Party and socialism is not works that "interfere with life," but the evil they expose. "If the political fate of these works had not been decided in a rigid and rude manner in those years, but instead, if they had been allowed to continue exploring and discovering, then our literature would have given a deeper and broader reflection of the contradictions in social life and potential crises. Thus people would not have been mentally unprepared for the scourge which struck them or been lacking in discernment," the writer added.

Liu Binyan considers that for many years, the life and struggle of the people have seemed to be cut into two. Observing, understanding and describing one of the parts have been forbidden. "This is like a stage curtain that is only half drawn; in such a case, can that half of the play which is shown be realistic and understandable?" the author asked.

He said: "When literature mirrors what is undesirable in real life, the mirror itself is not to blame; instead, disagreeable things in real life should be spotted and wiped out. An ugly person cannot be turned into a beauty simply by smashing the mirror. Literature is a means for pushing society ahead. Prohibiting writers from truthfully reflecting the contradictions in real life will bring harm not only to literature but also to the people and the Party."

No one would dare say that China's long-standing and richly-endowed cultural heritage should be written off at one stroke. Yet that was what actually happened a few years ago. Now the arts are being revived, and the principle being adopted is to "weed through the old to bring forth the new."

GUAN Sushuang, a Beijing opera actress from Yunnan, agrees that it is extremely important to inherit traditions while making innovations. This is aimed at bringing about the flourishing of socialist art and culture. Many excellent traditional theatrical pieces and artistic forms which had been banned from the stage have been reappearing in the last three years and are greatly appreciated by the audiences. Recently elected Vice-Chairman of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, she believes that even though Beijing opera has a rich repertoire and includes unique theatrical techniques, there is still a need for improvement. Otherwise, this art form will lose its vitality.

The new film, *Iron Bow*, a farce from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), is an example. Guan Sushuang superbly plays the role of a girl who encounters many difficulties in her love life. This is the same part she played when she began her stage career at around the age of ten. She loved the production and gave a stirring performance. But she realized that like many other traditional operas, it had its merits and defects. Some of the scenes were vulgar and both



Guan Sushuang.

SPECIAL FEATURE

the accompaniment for the singing and the fighting movements left much to be desired. These have all been changed in the new movie. The complexities of the story are retained, the plot is knitted more closely, the theme and the characters are more distinct. Guan Sushuang gives a splendid performance of a young girl living in a feudal society and holds her audiences spellbound with exciting fighting movements and superb singing.

Guan Sushuang feels it is important that traditional theatre serves as a forum for presenting contemporary life. Since 1958 she has played the role of a peasant's daughter opposing the oppression of a landlord, and the roles of a Communist and a woman political instructor in the P.L.A. She has also acted in operas depicting the life of minority women; in one she played the role of a Jingpo girl who won a new life after untold bitterness, in another she was a Hani heroine who struggled against a feudal headman and in a third one she was a militia-woman of the Va nationality.

While Guan Sushuang supports the discarding of unsavoury aspects from the traditional arts, she is against the indiscriminate elimination of emperors, kings, generals, ministers, scholars and beauties from the stage. She feels that these characters should be re-evaluated from a historical materialist viewpoint. Newly adapted historical operas should help their audiences to gain a better understanding of history and distinguish the beautiful from the ugly.

Should the Door Be Opened Or Kept Closed?

Keeping foreign culture at arm's length won't do today. What we need is "acceptism" in order to assimilate the good points.

THE day before I met composer Wu Zuqiang, he had just attended a performance by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of the world-famous Von Karajan. I felt his enthusiastic response to this fine performance far exceeded his enjoyment of the concert. He told me how pleased he was about the increasing number of exchanges he was having with his foreign counterparts. He quoted Chairman Mao's well-known statement: "By absorbing the good points of foreign countries, we'll be able

to make our own things leap ahead." (*A Talk to Music Workers.*)

The 52-year-old Vice-President of the Central Conservatory of Music was born into an archaeologist's family. His elder brother is a recognized playwright. He himself is very interested in and has a deep understanding of Chinese classical culture. Educated in European music, he is now devoting himself to the development of China's own national art by assimilating useful foreign elements.

While he was attending the Fourth National Congress of Chinese Writers and Artists, *The Mermaid*, a ballet dance-drama which he and another musician had composed 20 years ago was being restaged in Beijing. The work is based on a Chinese fairy tale about a mermaid



Wu Zuqiang in Inner Mongolia.

and her lover, a hunter, who break a monster's spell and thereafter have a happy life. This dance-drama contains successful borrowings from Western music. Even ordinary audiences feel that the beautiful, rich and restrained music poignantly portrays the characters.

He has created two well-received works in the 70s in the spirit of Chairman Mao's principle of "making foreign things serve China." *The Moon Over a Fountain* is an orchestrated piece adapted from an *erhu* (Chinese musical instrument) composition by the same title. The original melody was for the most part maintained and only slight readjustments were made to the musical structure. His second creation, the *pipa* (plucked stringed Chinese musical instrument) concerto *Sisters on the Grasslands* with the accompaniment of Western orchestral instruments, represents an experimental combination

BEIJING REVIEW

Subject Index

Nos. 27-52, 1979

I. DOMESTIC

1. Political Affairs

1) General

Improving the Party's Work Style	30 : 4
"House-Building" Spree Under Fire	30 : 5
Economist Ma Yinchu Rehabilitated	31 : 3
Army Day Reception in Beijing	32 : 3
"Three Men's Village" Rehabilitated	33 : 5
News and Facts	33 : 8
Strengthening Party Discipline	34 : 4
Faithfulness to Facts in Party History Research	34 : 5
Memorial Meeting for Comrade Zhang Wentian	35 : 3
Sea Transportation Between Mainland and Taiwan Proposed	35 : 6
Strict Demands on Leading Cadres	36 : 4
Chinese Religious Delegation	36 : 6
3rd Anniversary of Chairman Mao's Death	37 : 3
Gu Mu's Press Conference in Tokyo	37 : 4
Checking Up on Cadres' Work	37 : 6
Tribute to Returned Scientists	38 : 6
Gatherings of Pace-Setters	40 : 4
Three Major Issues Discussed	40 : 6
P.L.A. Aids Modernization	41 : 4
A Reform in Inner-Party Election	43 : 4
National Congresses of Democratic Parties	44 : 3
Exhibition of Party History	44 : 5
Opinion Polls in a Factory	45 : 6
Modernization: The Chinese Way — Sun Shangqing	45 : 21
In Memory of Norman Bethune	46 : 4
Strengthening Organizational Work	46 : 5

The Question of Population in China: Controlling Population Growth in a Planned Way — Chen Muhua	46 : 17
Interview With a Specialist On Population	46 : 20
Family Planning: Marked Results in China's Most Populous Province — Ouyang Huiyung	46 : 22
Planned Parenthood: How Tianjin's Heping District Does It — Our Correspondent Zhou Jinghua	46 : 25
Electing People's Deputies in Beijing	48 : 3
China's Democratic Parties — Our Correspondent Luo Fu	50 : 19
During the Democratic Revolution Contributions During Socialist Period	50 : 21
Long-Term Coexistence and Mutual Supervision	50 : 23
Making New Contributions	50 : 25
Technicians Become Leading Cadres	51 : 4
Economic Theory: On the Aim of Socialist Production	51 : 9
Policy on Religion — Xiao Wen	51 : 14
For Your Reference: Origin of Religions in China	51 : 16

2) National People's Congress

N.P.C. Closes	27 : 3
N.P.C. Approves Premier Hua's Report	27 : 4
Report on the Work of the Government. (Delivered at the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress on June 18, 1979 — Hua Guofeng)	27 : 5
Strengthen Legal System and Democracy	27 : 32
Explanation on Seven Laws — Peng Zhen, Director of Commission for Legal Affairs of N.P.C. Standing	

	Issue Page No. No.		Issue Page No. No.
Committee, at Second Session of Fifth N.P.C. on June 26, 1979	28 : 8	Our Correspondents Qin Yun and Dai Wei	39 : 7
Amendments to the Constitution	28 : 10	Only Socialism Can Save China — Xu Deheng	39 : 20
On-the-Spot Report: N.P.C.: Lively Political Atmosphere	28 : 18	National Day Celebrations	40 : 3
Publicizing the New Laws	29 : 3	Comrade Ye Jianying's Speech — At the Meeting in Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (September 29, 1979)	40 : 7
Arrangements for the 1979 National Economic Plan — Yu Qiuli	29 : 7	Communique of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Com- mittee of the Communist Party of China (September 28, 1979)	40 : 32
Report on the Final State Accounts for 1978 and the Draft State Budget for 1979 — Zhang Jingfu	29 : 17	Keep the Five-Star Red Flag Flying — Wei Laiguo	40 : 34
The New Criminal Law and the Law of Criminal Procedure		New China and Me — Hao Jianxiu	41 : 24
New China's First Criminal Law	33 : 16		
Law of Criminal Procedure: Sa- lient Points	33 : 19		
On the Regional Effect of China's Criminal Law	33 : 20		
On China's Electoral Law — Cheng Zihua	37 : 15		
People's Congress in Xinjiang	38 : 4		
United Front in the New Period	41 : 3		
Reforming Local Organs of State Power — Xu Chongde	51 : 17		
Beijing Municipal Government Elected	51 : 18		
3) Chinese Communist Party and 30 Years of New China		4) Studying Works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's Works, Criticizing the Gang of Four	
Visiting Places of Revolutionary Sig- nificance (I) — Our Correspon- dents Qin Yun and Dai Wei		Discussion on Criterion for Testing Truth	28 : 3
Shanghai: The Party's Birthplace	34 : 9	The Nation Contemplates: Why Was an Outstanding Woman Commu- nist Killed?	30 : 19
Zhengzhou and the February 7 Strike	34 : 11	Research on "Marxism Today"	31 : 4
National Institute of Peasant Movement in Guangzhou	34 : 13	A Struggle on Two Fronts: Oppose Rightism and "Leftism" — Xiao Feng	35 : 14
Huangpu Island: Site of a Military Academy	34 : 15	A Talk to Music Workers (August 24, 1956) — Mao Zedong	37 : 9
Visiting Places of Revolutionary Significance (II): Nanchang, Jing- gang Mountains and Zunji — Our Correspondents Qin Yun and Dai Wei	36 : 8	For More Collectively Owned Enter- prises	38 : 8
Slogans in Celebration of 30th Anni- versary of People's Republic of China	38 : 4	Discussion on the Criterion of Truth	39 : 3
Visiting Places of Revolutionary Sig- nificance (III): Xian, Yanan and Taihang — Our Correspondents Qin Yun and Dai Wei	38 : 10	Opposing Personality Cult	42 : 3
Visiting Places of Revolutionary Sig- nificance (IV): Chongqing, North Shaanxi, Xuzhou and Xibaipo —		Fundamental Change in China's Class Situation	46 : 9
		Correct Approach to Marxism	47 : 9
		Gansu Province: Discussions on Cri- terion of Truth	47 : 13
		Fundamental Change in China's Class Situation	47 : 15
		5) Socialist Democracy and Legal System	
		Ling Yun on Counter-Revolutionary Offences and Capital Punishment	28 : 16
		Supreme People's Court Meets	32 : 4
		Enforcing the Law	32 : 4
		Economic Division Set Up in Court	32 : 5
		Peng Zhen on Strengthening the Legal System	33 : 3

	<i>Issue Page No. No.</i>
The New Criminal Law and the Law of Criminal Procedure	
New China's First Criminal Law	33 : 16
Law of Criminal Procedure: Salient Points	33 : 19
On the Regional Effect of China's Criminal Law	33 : 20
Applying Economic Sanctions Against Himself	37 : 27
New Minister of Justice Interviewed	42 : 3
Wei Jingsheng Sentenced	43 : 6
Embezzler Sentenced to Death	45 : 7
Notes on the Human Rights Question (Excerpts) — "Guangming Ribao" Commentator	45 : 17
China's First Environmental Protection Law	45 : 24
The People's Verdict — Wei Jingsheng's appeal rejected	46 : 15
Strengthening the Socialist Legal System	49 : 3
The "Xidan Wall"	49 : 3
New Site for Big-Character Posters	50 : 6
Punish a Handful of Criminals	51 : 6
China's Procuratorates — An interview with Chief Procurator Huang Huoqing	52 : 16
Procuratorates in Beijing	52 : 18
6) Trade Unions, Youths, Women, Children	
Clash Between Chinese and Foreign Students in Shanghai Settled	31 : 7
Youth Palace in Wuhan	32 : 29
Educated Youths in the Countryside Encouraged	37 : 5
Young Advanced Restaurant Worker	41 : 26
People's University Students Resume Classes	42 : 6
Save the Teenage Delinquents — Our Correspondent Zhou Zheng	
A Day at a Reformatory	44 : 18
Why? What Is to Be Done?	44 : 21
Turning Over a New Leaf — A Student's Own Story	44 : 25
Pages From Students' Diaries	44 : 25
The Correct Path for Youth	46 : 5
Confectionary for Children	46 : 30
Tasks of Trade Unions	47 : 4
Major Change in Settling Educated Youth.	47 : 6

	<i>Issue Page No. No.</i>
Girl Wins Annulment of Forced Marriage	47 : 27
Freedom of Marriage	48 : 7
Science and Technology: Children's Achievement	49 : 29
Selecting Middle-Aged and Young Leading Cadres	50 : 4
Diamond Presented	51 : 27
7) National Minorities	
Torch Festival	33 : 28
Reopening Moslem Mosques	34 : 30
A Small Border Town — Zham	37 : 27
New Appointments for Minority People	44 : 29
New Tibetan Typewriter	46 : 30
China's Smallest Minority Nationality	47 : 27
Tap Water in Parkor Street	51 : 27
8) Others	
"House-Building" Spree Under Fire	30 : 5
Accent on Competence	31 : 5
Former Inner Mongolian Administrative Units Restored	31 : 6
A Former Mayor's Daughter	35 : 27
Central Authorities Help Solve Petitioners' Problems	38 : 7
Criticism Works	38 : 29
Lively Readers' Columns	39 : 5
Director Wu Removed From Office	41 : 27
Freedom of Marriage	48 : 7
Pollution, Declining Invitation to Banquets	51 : 7
Not a Lonely Old Man	51 : 28

2. Economic

1) General

Communique on Fulfilment of China's 1978 National Economic Plan — Issued on June 27, 1979 by the State Statistical Bureau	27 : 37
Collective Ownership: Bright Prospects	28 : 4
The Law of the People's Republic of China on Joint Ventures Using Chinese and Foreign Investment (Adopted by the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress on July 1, 1979)	29 : 24
Rong Yiren on Joint Ventures	29 : 28

	Issue Page No. No.
Li Xiannian Welcomes Foreign Investment	30 : 4
Importing Technology:	
Plans Readjusted, Policy Unchanged	30 : 9
Lenin on Assimilating Good Foreign Things — Zhong He	30 : 12
Legs and Walking Stick — A Visit to the Qianjin Chemical Works — Our Correspondent Zhou Jin	30 : 13
Reallocation — Our Correspondent Jin Jizhu	30 : 17
Enterprise Management: Tentative Practice	32 : 6
Beijing for Three Decades — Our Correspondent Zhou Jinghua	
Fragments of History	32 : 9
Building a New Capital	32 : 14
The World Has Changed	32 : 16
City Construction: Problems and Prospects	32 : 19
"Eating From the Same Pot"	35 : 7
Gu Mu's Press Conference in Tokyo	37 : 4
Plans for Development in a Backward Province	37 : 6
Gu Mu on Economic Relations With Foreign Countries	41 : 3
Nationwide Economic Investigation	44 : 6
"Shichang" Published	44 : 30
Modernization: The Chinese Way — Sun Shangqing	45 : 21
The Question of Population in China: Controlling Population Growth In a Planned Way — Chen Muhua	46 : 17
Interview With a Specialist On Population	46 : 20
Family Planning: Marked Results in China's Most Populous Province — Ouyang Huiyun	46 : 22
Planned Parenthood: How Tianjin's Heping District Does It — Our Correspondent Zhou Jinghua	46 : 25
Zhao Ziyang On Improving Economic Work	47 : 3
Economic Theory: On the Aim of Socialist Production	51 : 9
Readjustment Yields Positive Results	52 : 3

2) Discussion on Economic Theory

Theoretical Discussion: Socialist Economic Planning and the Market — Liu Guoguang and Zhao Renwei	31 : 8
A Suggestion: Priority to Animal Husbandry	34 : 6
Urban Collective Economy: Develop Or Eliminate It?	35 : 9
A Study in the Planned Management of the Socialist Economy — Xue Muqiao	43 : 14
Should the "Iron Rice Bowl" Be Smashed?	48 : 4
Discussion on the Aim of Socialist Production	51 : 3

3) Industry and Communications

Kailuan Coal Mine Expanded	27 : 44
Rich "Black Gold" Deposits	28 : 6
China's Biggest Chemical Fibre Plant	28 : 6
Railway Across Big Salt Lake	28 : 31
Half-Yearly Industrial Production	30 : 3
Guidelines for Economic Development in Jiangsu	30 : 6
Tibetan Handicrafts	30 : 29
Big Chemical Works Expanded	30 : 29
China's First Solar-Heated Building	30 : 30
China Opens Air Transit Route	31 : 6
New Coal Base in Liaoning	31 : 27
Handicraft Industry	32 : 7
Qinghai-Tibet Railway	33 : 6
Big Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant	33 : 27
More TV Sets	33 : 27
July Industrial Production Increases	35 : 4
Thermal Power Plants Under Construction	35 : 27
Southern Xinjiang Railway	36 : 30
Recruiting Managerial Personnel	39 : 28
Prize-Winning Spirits and Wines	39 : 28
Perfume Industry Developing Rapidly	39 : 28
Machine-Building Industry	40 : 38
Daqing: New Oil-Bearing Formations	40 : 38
Growing Merchant Fleet	41 : 26
Exhibition of Light Industrial Products	42 : 5
Rich Mineral Resources	42 : 30
Industrial Production in 3rd Quarter	43 : 3
New Oil Well in South China Sea	43 : 3
New Beijing International Airport — Our Correspondent Hua Sheng	43 : 20
China's Civil Aviation	43 : 22

	Issue Page No. No.
Uranium Found	43 : 27
Fuel and Power Industries	43 : 27
Sixty Years of Bridge Building — Mao Yisheng	44 : 16
Fairly Complete Industrial System	44 : 29
Dairy Products in Heilongjiang	44 : 30
Using Geothermal Resources	45 : 27
Textile Industry in Xinjiang	46 : 30
Industrial Production Continues to In- crease	47 : 5
New Coal Mine in Shaanxi	48 : 5
Enterprises Combining Agriculture, Industry and Commerce	48 : 6
Upgrading the Longhai Railway	48 : 29
More and Better Radios and TV Sets	49 : 6
Electronics Industry Thrives	49 : 27
China's Energy Policy	50 : 5
A Commune's Gold Mines	50 : 29
Phosphorus Mine in Kunyang	50 : 30
Technicians Become Leading Cadres	51 : 4
Rich Uranium Deposit Discovered	51 : 5
A Coalfield Verified in Guizhou	51 : 28
Offshore Unloading Platform	51 : 28
A Large Gold Mine	52 : 4
Rebuilding Tangshan After Earthquake	52 : 5

4) Agriculture, Forestry and Water Con- servancy

Small Hydropower Stations	30 : 29
Aerial Sowing of Rice	31 : 27
Bosten Lake Diversion Project	32 : 30
Diversify the Rural Economy	36 : 6
Building a "Green Great Wall — Li Yigong, Huang Zhenggen and Fu Shanglun	36 : 22
Rich Summer Harvest	37 : 3
State Farms Reap Good Wheat Harvest	37 : 27
Hydropower Station on the Huanghe	38 : 29
Bee-Keeping	38 : 29
Expanding Rural Industrial Enter- prises	39 : 4
Livestock Increases	41 : 5
Xinjiang Exploits Ground Water	43 : 27
Accelerating Farm Production	45 : 5
Improved Yaks	45 : 27
Water Conservancy Works on Farm- land	47 : 28
Enterprises Combining Agriculture, Industry and Commerce	48 : 6
Ancient Grand Canal Revived	48 : 29

	Issue Page No. No.
Sowing Grass by Plane	48 : 30
Tap Water in Parkor Street	51 : 27
When the Peasants Get Better Off. . .	52 : 4

5) Finance, Trade and Tourism

Rapid Expansion of Foreign Trade	30 : 3
Beidaihe — Seaside Resort	31 : 27
From Loss to Gain	31 : 28
Famous Varieties of Tea	31 : 28
Beijing's New Exhibition Centre	33 : 28
Construction Company Founded in Shanghai	34 : 6
First Tourism Institute	35 : 28
Great Hall of the People Open to Public	36 : 5
Small Export Commodities Fair	36 : 7
Ceramics Exhibition	37 : 26
Wutai Mountain	38 : 30
Commercial Schools	41 : 27
Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant to Open in Tokyo	41 : 27
China International Trust and Invest- ment Corp.	42 : 4
More Eggs — And What It Means	43 : 4
Export Commodities Fair	44 : 6
Non-Staple Food Prices Raised	45 : 4
Higher Purchasing Prices Bring Good Results	45 : 5
Company Handling Mail Orders From Abroad	45 : 27
Stable Market	46 : 6
Rural Bank Loans and Savings In- crease	46 : 6
Eight Mountain Peaks Open to Foreign Climbers	46 : 7
Confectionary for Children	46 : 30
Autumn Export Commodities Fair Closes	47 : 5
Peasant Markets	47 : 6
Guilin Improves Tourist Facilities	47 : 27
Yue Fei's Tomb Restored	47 : 28
International Advertisements Accepted	48 : 30
Capital Construction: Loans Instead of Appropriations	49 : 4
Reasonable Charges for Tourists	49 : 5
More Licences for Individual Labourers	49 : 5
Exporting Replicas of Chinese Gardens	49 : 27
Culinary Skills	49 : 28
Chinese Bank Supports Co-operation With Foreign Countries	51 : 8

	Issue Page No. No.
6) Employment and People's Life	
More Income for the Peasants	28 : 5
Workers' Sanatoria Reopened	28 : 31
Popularizing Use of Methane in Rural Areas	29 : 5
Not "Survival of the Fittest"	30 : 7
More Job Opportunities	31 : 3
Housing Question	32 : 7
Communes Provide Old-Age Pensions	32 : 30
Recruiting Workers: The New Way	33 : 7
Noted Economist on Employment	33 : 13
More TV Sets	33 : 27
More Cold Drinks in Shanghai	33 : 28
When Workers Reach Retirement Age	35 : 28
A Unique Family	37 : 26
Beijing Residents Enjoy Longer Life	39 : 6
More Moving Into New Houses	41 : 26
Another Four Million People Given Jobs	42 : 6
After the Earthquake	44 : 30
Increasing Wages	45 : 4
Social Welfare Institutions	45 : 28
Housing China's 900 Million People — Our Correspondent — Zhou Jin General Housing Situation in Cities and Countryside	48 : 17
Workers' Housing in Yantai	48 : 19
New-Type Farmhouse	48 : 22
Rural Housing (Pictorial)	48 : 24
Effective Measures Adopted	48 : 26
More Licences for Individual Labourers	49 : 5
More and Better Radios and TV Sets	49 : 6
Handicapped People Contribute to Socialism	49 : 27
Stepmother Brings Warmth	50 : 29
Diamond Presented	51 : 27
Rebuilding Tangshan After Earthquake	52 : 5
7) Others	
Earthquake Hits Liyang, Jiangsu Province	29 : 6
Air Pollution Control	32 : 29
Alligators Protected	32 : 30
Ship to Purify Oil-Contaminated Water	34 : 30
Earthquake Hits Inner Mongolia	36 : 7
Stranded U.S. Freighter Salvaged	36 : 30
People's Congress in Tibet	37 : 3

	Issue Page No. No.
Giant Panda Yuan Jing's First Birthday	42 : 30
Pollution Control Over Coastal Waters	43 : 28
China's First Environmental Protection Law	45 : 24
Goldfish Exhibition	48 : 30
3,000-Year-Old Tree Bears Fruit	49 : 28
Chrysanthemum Show in Beijing	50 : 29
Botanical Garden	51 : 27

3. Culture

1) Literature and Art

Literature: Ding Ling to Publish New Books	27 : 45
More Cinemas and Theatres	29 : 5
Cartoons and Socialism	29 : 30
Drama: Tian Han Commemorated	31 : 29
Recognition of Veteran Craftsmen	35 : 4
Ultra-Left Literary Line Refuted	35 : 6
Opera: Training Beijing Opera Performers	35 : 30
Films: Colour Documentary Series "China Today"	37 : 30
First Projectionist in Liberated Area	37 : 31
Theatre: National Festival	39 : 29
Photography: Exhibition in Beijing	41 : 29
"Director Qiao Assumes Office": A Short Story	43 : 5
Film: "Nezha Conquers the Dragon King"	43 : 30
Film: Liberated Areas' First Cartoon Movies	43 : 31
More New Films on TV	44 : 7
Vice-Premier Deng on Literature and Art	45 : 3
Art: Exhibition of Kathe Kollwitz's Works	45 : 30
Literature: Recently Off the Press	45 : 31
Dance-Drama: "Tales of the Silk Road"	47 : 29
Publication: Academic Periodicals of Natural Sciences	47 : 31
1,200 Kinds of Periodicals	47 : 31
Books: Beijing Fair	49 : 30
Chinese Literature and Art: Our Lessons and Tasks Ahead — Zhou Yang	50 : 8
Huge Jade Carving	50 : 30
Music: Yehudi Menuhin in Beijing	51 : 31

	Issue Page No. No.		Issue Page No. No.
Literature and Art:		Lhasa Hospital of Tibetan Medicine	34 : 30
The Last Three Years	52 : 7	Sports: Jinan International Gymnastics Tournament	35 : 29
Discussion on Major Issues	52 : 10	Foreign Climbers to Scale Mt. Qomolangma	37 : 8
Is There Freedom of Literary Creation?	52 : 11	Fourth National Games	38 : 3
Literature as a Mirror of Life	52 : 12	Keep Fit for the New Long March — Our Correspondent Yang Chuxie	
Discarding the Unwanted and Retaining the Essence	52 : 13	The Fourth National Games	42 : 17
Should the Door Be Opened or Kept Closed	52 : 14	Mass Callisthenics Display	42 : 19
Fostering Mass Cultural Life	52 : 15	Meeting With Three Athletes — Our Correspondent Jian Yun	42 : 21
For Your Reference: An Organization of Chinese Writers and Artists	52 : 15	Friendship First, Competition Second	42 : 23
2) Education		Wuxi City: Outside of the Sports Field	42 : 24
Dual Task of Secondary Education	28 : 7	China and the International Olympic Committee — Statement by the Chinese Olympic Committee's Spokesman to "Beijing Review" Correspondent	42 : 27
Work-Study System	32 : 8	New Sports Facilities in Harbin	45 : 28
Training Foreign Fish-Breeders	33 : 27	No-Smoking Campaign	50 : 29
Summer Vacation	34 : 7	Heading for the Olympics	51 : 6
Spare-Time Education for Workers	35 : 8	Medicine: Separated Siamese Twins In Good Health	51 : 30
Stress on Secondary Technical Education	37 : 7	China Wins Asian Men's Volleyball Title	52 : 5
How to Be a Good Student	38 : 8	4) Science and Technology	
New College Students	41 : 6	High Energy Physics: 50-GeV. Accelerator Under Construction	27 : 45
Commercial Schools	41 : 27	Tribute to Returned Scientists	38 : 6
People's University Students Resume Classes	42 : 6	Automatic Hydrographic and Weather Station	38 : 30
Save the Teenage Delinquents — Our Correspondent Zhou Zheng		30th Anniversary of Chinese Academy of Sciences	46 : 3
A Day at a Reformatory	44 : 18	Chinese Seismological Society Founded	49 : 7
Why? What Is to Be Done?	44 : 21	Science and Technology: Children's Achievement	49 : 29
Turning Over a New Leaf — A Student's Own Story	44 : 25	5) Archaeology and Cultural Relics	
Pages From Students' Diaries	44 : 25	Donor of Ancient Coins Rewarded	27 : 44
Chinese Scholars and Students Abroad	47 : 7	Archaeology: 3,000-Year-Old Palace Sites	33 : 30
TV Colleges Popular in China	47 : 8	Revolutionary Relics: A Letter From Martyr Jiang	33 : 30
Appointment of University Vice-President: The New Way	49 : 7	Protecting and Studying the Great Wall	41 : 7
For More Language Specialists	52 : 5	Revolutionary Relics: Story About a Ladder	41 : 28
Abacus Association Set Up	52 : 25		
3) Sports, Medicine and Health			
Sports: World Records Bettered or Equalled	29 : 31		
International Academic Exchanges: A Fruitful Symposium on Acupuncture	31 : 13		
Sports: An Unusual Torch Relay	31 : 30		
Curb on Smoking	33 : 7		
Dentistry: Finger-Pressure Anaesthesia	33 : 29		

	Issue Page No. No.
Archaeology: 2,400-Year-Old Chime	43 : 29
Astronomy: Ancient Observatory Under Repair	45 : 29
Yue Fei's Tomb Restored	47 : 28
Archaeology: Album of 1,800-Year Murals	49 : 30
Museum of Qin Dynasty Terracotta Warriors	50 : 7
6) Social Sciences and Others	
History: Symposium on Taiping Heavenly Kingdom	27 : 46
Encyclopaedia Sinica	30 : 6
"Great Wall" Stamps Issued	30 : 30
Famous Tibetan Monastery Reopens	32 : 29
Social Sciences: Sun Yefang's Essays Published	37 : 29
Religious Research Revived	37 : 29
History: World War II: Topic at Sym- posium	41 : 28
Publication: Revised Edition of "Ci Hai"	43 : 29
Chrysanthemum Show in Beijing	50 : 29
Social Science: Historian Reviews Zigzag Progress	51 : 29
Home of Pandas	52 : 25
Miniature Landscapes	52 : 25

II. INTERNATIONAL

1. General

Tokyo: Seven-Nation Summit	28 : 29
Kiribati: Independence Celebrated	29 : 29
Geneva Conference: China's Stand on Question of Indochinese Refugees	30 : 22
Islamic Conference Organization: Israeli Occupation of Jerusalem Opposed	30 : 28
At Conference on Refugees: Viet Nam Stands Accused	31 : 19
Who Is Responsible for the "Oil Crisis"?	31 : 21
Western Countries: Contacts With P.L.O.	33 : 25
The Non-Aligned Movement	34 : 18
Development in Middle East Peace Talks	35 : 19
Persian Gulf Rivalry	35 : 23
The Non-Aligned Movement Continues to Advance	38 : 21
Report From Havana: The Struggle	

Will Go On — Xinhua Correspon- dent Peng Di	38 : 23
Nansha Islands Belong to China	40 : 6
China and the International Olympic Committee — Statement by the Chinese 'Olympic Committee's Spokesman to "Beijing Review" Correspondent	42 : 27
Huang Hua on International Issues	43 : 11
China's Legitimate Seat in I.O.C. Re- stored	44 : 3
China's Legitimate Seat in I.O.C. Re- stored	48 : 3
Middle East: Hua Guofeng Reaffirms Three Principles	48 : 8
Arab Summit Conference: Stress on Unity	48 : 9
Report From Lisbon: Conference on Strategic Islands	49 : 24
NATO to Deploy New Missiles in Europe	51 : 21
OPEC Conference	52 : 24

2. China and United Nations

U.N. Vienna Conference: A Positive Step	37 : 25
At the United Nations: Democratic Kampuchea's Representation Re- affirmed — "Renmin Ribao" com- mentary, September 23	39 : 25
Han Nianlong's Speech at U.N. General Assembly (Excerpts)	41 : 13
United Nations: What's the Crux of the Kampuchean Question?	42 : 28
Huang Hua on International Issues	43 : 11
Castro in U.N.: Soviet Surrogate	43 : 26
United Nations: Chinese Representa- tive on Human Rights	44 : 28
China at the U.N.: Draft Resolution Against Hegemonism	45 : 25
U.N. General Assembly: Foreign Forces Called On to Withdraw Im- mediately From Kampuchea	47 : 20
Security Council: Release of American Hostages Urged	49 : 25
United Nations Committee: Anti- Hegemony Resolution	50 : 28

3. China's Foreign Relations; Countries and Regions

1) ASIA

ASEAN Ministerial Conference: Facing Hanoi's Challenge Squarely	28 : 29
Newsletter From Beirut: West Bank and Gaza Strip Under Israeli Occupation — "Guangming Ribao" Correspondent Xu Shiquan	30 : 25
ASEAN: Upholds Kampuchea's In- dependence and Sovereignty	35 : 25
Israel: Economic Ailments	35 : 26
"New Age" (Britain): Soviet Ambi- tions in Central Asia	36 : 29
Israel: Arrogant and Isolated	42 : 29
Israel: Dayan's Resignation	44 : 27
Israel: Begin in Trouble	46 : 29
Middle East: Israeli Expulsion Order Condemned	47 : 26
Vietnamese Refugees in China	51 : 8
ASEAN Meeting: Implementation of U.N. Resolution Urged	51 : 26
Afghanistan	
Heavy Clashes	33 : 25
Taraki Removed	39 : 27
Burma	
Burmese Prime Minister Visits China	29 : 4
India	
Political Unrest	31 : 25
Unstable Political Situation	38 : 27
Iran	
Bazargan's Resignation	46 : 14
Tense Iran-U.S. Relations	47 : 24
Security Council: Release of American Hostages Urged	49 : 25
Constitutional Referendum	50 : 28
Against Iranian Volunteers	51 : 26
Panama: Different Reactions to Pres- ence of Pahlavi	52 : 24
Japan	
Oil Diplomacy	31 : 25
Japan's Energy Policy Faces Test	33 : 24
New Postures of Japanese Diplomacy	37 : 23
Japan's Northern Islands: "Preventive Tactics"	38 : 27
Protesting Soviet Base on Shikotan Is.	41 : 31
Storm Over Election of Prime Minister	46 : 13
Sino-Japanese Co-operation: New Horizons	50 : 3

Two Offensives, One Purpose — Krem- lin tries to poison Sino-Japanese relations	51 : 23
Miyamoto's Visit to Soviet Union	52 : 24

Kampuchea

Revolt in Enemy-Occupied Areas	29 : 29
Vietnamese Colonial Policy Denounced	30 : 27
ASEAN: Upholds Kampuchea's Inde- pendence and Sovereignty	35 : 25
New Draft Political Programme	37 : 19
Monsoon Season Combat	39 : 27
Viet Nam: New Military Offensive in Kampuchea	40 : 37
Thai-Kampuchean Border: Danger Signal	43 : 25
Viet Nam-Kampuchea: "Sister Prov- inces"	45 : 26
Viet Nam: Chemical Warfare Against Laos and Kampuchea	46 : 28
Stockholm: International Conference of Solidarity With Kampuchea	47 : 23
At Kampuchean Refugee Camp — Zhong Xinying	50 : 15
Interview With Pol Pot	51 : 25

Korea

Pyongyang: 29th Anniversary of the Fatherland Liberation War	27 : 42
Support Korean People's Just Stand	29 : 27
South Korea: Suppression of Demo- crats	34 : 28
South Korea: Pusan Demonstrations	43 : 25
South Korea in Turmoil	45 : 14
South Korea in Confusion	51 : 24

Laos

Why the People Flee the Country — Zong Shu	36 : 26
Viet Nam: Chemical Warfare Against Laos and Kampuchea	46 : 28
Visiting Lao Refugee Camps in Thailand — Xinhua Correspon- dents Chen Boliang and Liu Zheng- chu	52 : 20

Lebanon

Rebuilding the Army	33 : 26
Against Iranian Volunteers	51 : 26

Nepal

Nepalese King and Queen in Beijing	36 : 3
------------------------------------	--------

	Issue Page No. No.		Issue Page No. No.
Pakistan		Vietnam-Kampuchea: "Sister Prov- inces"	45 : 26
U.S. Embassy Attacked	48 : 28	Chemical Warfare Against Laos and Kampuchea	46 : 28
Sri Lanka		On Hanoi's White Book	47 : 18
Sri Lanka Prime Minister Visits China	34 : 3	Another Round of Sino-Vietnamese Talks	48 : 4
Thailand		More on Hanoi's White Book	48 : 11
Thai-Kampuchean Border: Danger Signal	43 : 25	Hoang Van Hoan Interviewed by TV Reporter	48 : 12
Deng Says: China Supports Thailand	44 : 3	Why Did Sino-Vietnamese Relations Deteriorate After Viet Nam's Unification? — Third comment on Viet Nam's white book — "Renmin Ribao" and Xinhua Commentators	49 : 8
At Kampuchean Refugee Camp — Zhong Xinying	50 : 15	Distortion of Facts About Militant Friendship Between Viet Nam and China Is Impermissible — Hoang Van Hoan	49 : 11
Visiting Lao Refugee Camps in Thailand — Xinhua Correspon- dents Chen Boliang and Liu Zheng- chu	52 : 20	Viet Nam Continues Armed Provoca- tions	52 : 6
Viet Nam		2) AFRICA	
"Renmin Ribao" Editorial: Stop Viet Nam's Refugee Export — An Urgent Matter	28 : 24	Newsletter From Monrovia: Victory for Seeking Common Ground — Our Correspondent Wang Wei	31 : 16
Han Nianlong's Statement: Viet Nam Should Stop Exporting Refugees	28 : 26	Hailing O.A.U. Summit	31 : 17
ASEAN Ministerial Conference: Fac- ing Hanoi's Challenge Squarely	28 : 29	Mauritania: Peace Agreement With Polisario	33 : 26
Geneva Conference: China's Stand on Question of Indochinese Refugees	30 : 22	Zimbabwe: Armed Struggle Results	33 : 26
Democratic Kampuchea: Vietnamese Colonial Policy Denounced	30 : 27	Lusaka Conference: Statement on Rhodesian Problem	34 : 27
At Conference on Refugees: Viet Nam Stands Accused	31 : 19	Tension Builds Up in West Sahara	35 : 18
Sino-Vietnamese Negotiations: Why No Progress	32 : 24	Eritrea: Past and Present	37 : 22
Chinese Leaders Meet Hoang Van Hoan	33 : 3	Venda: Rigged-Up "Black State"	38 : 28
Hoang Van Hoan's Press Conference	33 : 9	West Sahara: Mounting Armed Con- flicts	48 : 16
Hoang Van Hoan's Message to His Vietnamese Compatriots (August 9, 1979)	33 : 10	South Africa's "Constellation" Pro- gramme	52 : 22
On China's Sovereignty Over Xisha and Nansha Islands: Hanoi Goes Back on Its Word	34 : 24	Azania	27 : 42
Hoang Van Hoan's Statement — On being expelled from Vietnamese Communist Party	36 : 24	Vorster Ousted	28 : 30
No Progress in Sino-Vietnamese Nego- tiations	39 : 4	Central African Empire (Republic)	
New Military Offensive in Kampuchea	40 : 37	Children Massacred	36 : 29
Viet Nam Launches Another Anti- China Campaign	43 : 7	Central African Republic: Bokassa's Downfall	40 : 37
Vietnamese "Guarantee" and Reality	45 : 16	Chad	
		Reconciliation Accord Signed	36 : 28
		Withdrawal of French Troops	37 : 28
		Transitional Government	47 : 25
		Djibouti	
		Djibouti President Visits China	51 : 4

	Issue Page No. No.		Issue Page No. No.
Equatorial Guinea		Somoza Collapses	30 : 27
New Military Government Formed	36 : 28	Nicaragua-Honduras: Strained Relations	49 : 26
Ghana		Panama	
After the Coup	34 : 27	Implementation of Canal Treaties Celebrated	41 : 31
Libya		Different Reactions to Presence of Pahlavi	52 : 24
Economic Achievements	37 : 25	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
Mauritania		Independence Celebrated	45 : 25
Peace Agreement With Polisario	33 : 26	Armed Rebellion Quelled	51 : 25
Senegal		Venezuela	
Economy Improving	29 : 29	Indian's Living Conditions Improved	31 : 26
Uganda		New Economic Policies	34 : 28
New Government	27 : 43	4) NORTH AMERICA	
Zambia		Canada	
On Full Alert	48 : 28	Workers Communist Party (M-L) Founded	38 : 28
Support for the Zambian People's Just Struggle	49 : 4	United States	
Zimbabwe		Cabinet Reshuffle	31 : 25
Armed Struggle Results	33 : 26	Energy Crisis Hits the U.S.	33 : 22
Constitutional Conference: Agreement on Transitional Arrangements	47 : 25	The Arms Race in Outer Space	34 : 23
3) LATIN AMERICA		Newsletter From Washington: Another Recession	35 : 21
U.S. Stand on Three-Mile Limit Opposed	35 : 25	Latin America: U.S. Stand on Three-Mile Limit Opposed	35 : 25
Oaxaca Declaration: Against Political Hegemony	43 : 26	For Development of Sino-American Relations in the 80s	36 : 3
Brazil		Washington Newsletter: "Mini-Crisis"	41 : 22
Land Seizures	44 : 28	Capitol Hill: Spectre of "Two Chinas"	44 : 27
Bolivia		New Debate on Mideast Policy	46 : 28
Military Coup	45 : 26	Tense Iran-U.S. Relations	47 : 24
Provisional President	47 : 25	Foreign Investments in the United States Increase	52 : 23
Cuba		5) EUROPE	
Moscow's Advance Post in Western Hemisphere	38 : 25	Energy Troubles in East European Countries	34 : 22
Castro in U.N.: Soviet Surrogate	43 : 28	Western Europe: Protests Soviet Occupation of Czechoslovakia	35 : 26
El Salvador		On His Visit to Western Europe: Premier Hua Guofeng Holds Press Conference	41 : 8
Political Change in El Salvador	43 : 24	Premier Hua Visits Western Europe	42 : 3
Guatemala		Premier Hua Guofeng Interviewed by Felix Greene	42 : 7
Unstable Situation in Guatemala — Xin Ping	52 : 21	Premier Hua's Historic Visit: "Renmin Ribao" editorial	46 : 8
Honduras			
Nicaragua-Honduras: Strained Relations	49 : 26		
Mexico			
U.S. Blood Pedlars	34 : 29		
Nicaragua			
Somoza Regime on Its Last Legs	28 : 27		

	Issue Page No. No.		Issue Page No. No.
Dublin Conference: A "Family Quarrel" of West European Community	50 : 17	Spain	
Belgium		Spanish Workers' Party Founded	28 : 29
Labour Party Formed	46 : 29	Portugal	
Britain		Caretaker Government Formed	32 : 28
To Our British Friends — Chu Tunan	43 : 12	Report From Lisbon: Conference on Strategic Islands	49 : 24
Premier Hua's Visit to Britain: New Impetus for Closer Co-operation	45 : 8	Soviet Union	
Huang Hua Answers Reporters' Questions	45 : 10	"Socialist Community": Soviet Extra-territoriality	27 : 43
Denmark		Protest Against Soviet Border Provocation	30 : 8
Danish Queen in Beijing	38 : 3	Soviet Union Steps Up Southward Drive	31 : 23
Federal Republic of Germany		Moscow Beefs Up Its Pacific Fleet	32 : 26
Revisiting Germany — Li Guohao	42 : 14	Against Saving Refugees	32 : 28
Premier Hua's Visit to F.R.G.: New Beginning for Wide Co-operation	44 : 8	Soviet Economy: Aching Energy Problem	34 : 20
Joint Press Conference	44 : 11	The Arms Race in Outer Space	34 : 23
Gromyko in F.R.G.: Mission Fails	49 : 25	Sweden: K.G.B. Rampant	36 : 29
France		"New Age" (Britain): Soviet Ambitions in Central Asia	36 : 29
Memories of My Days in France — Ding Shande	41 : 12	Soviet Military Infiltration Into Indochina	37 : 21
Premier Hua's Visit to France: Sino-French Relations Reach a New High	43 : 8	Cuba — Moscow's Advance Post in Western Hemisphere	38 : 25
Huang Hua on International Issues	43 : 11	Japan's Northern Islands: "Preventive Tactics"	38 : 27
Two Marxist-Leninist Parties to Merge	44 : 27	Sino-Soviet Negotiations: Does Moscow Intend to Solve Questions? (A Commentary by Xinhua Correspondent, September 23)	39 : 23
German Democratic Republic		For Your Reference: Sino-Soviet Negotiations	39 : 24
Brezhnev in G.D.R.: "Peace" Gesture	42 : 28	Washington Newsletter: "Mini-Crisis"	41 : 22
Greece		Japan: Protesting Soviet Base on Shikotan Is.	41 : 31
Greek Prime Minister Visits China	47 : 3	Brezhnev in G.D.R.: "Peace" Gesture	42 : 28
Italy		Moscow's New Tactics	44 : 15
Incessant Strikes	27 : 42	Gromyko in F.R.G.: Mission Fails	49 : 25
New Peak in Workers' Struggle	30 : 28	NATO to Deploy New Missiles in Europe	51 : 21
Art and Friendship — Recollections of a Trip to Italy — Shen Roujian	44 : 12	Two Offensives, One Purpose — Kremlin tries to poison Sino-Japanese relations	51 : 23
Premier Hua Visits Italy: Building a Bridge of Friendship	45 : 12	Sweden	
Rome: Premier Hua's Airport Statement	45 : 13	K.G.B. Rampant	36 : 29
Luxembourg		International Conference of Solidarity With Kampuchea	47 : 23
Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg Visits China	40 : 5		
Netherlands			
Rotterdam: Dockers and Tugboat Men Strike	38 : 28		

For Your Reference

An Organization of Chinese Writers and Artists

THE China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, a joint literature and art organization founded in 1949, is composed of the Chinese Writers' Association, Chinese Dramatists' Association, Chinese Musicians' Association, Chinese Artists' Association, Chinese Film Artists' Association, Chinese Dancers' Association, Chinese Ballad Singers' Association, China Society for the Study of Folk Literature and Art, Chinese Photographers' Association and the recently founded Preparatory Committee of the Chinese Acrobats' Association. The federation has branches in all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

The federation's new constitution, adopted at the recent national congress, stipulates:

- The federation will become a broad alliance of writers and artists who support socialism, love the motherland and safeguard the unity of the country.

- Following the principle of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and letting a hundred schools of thought contend," the federation will organize and promote

literary and artistic creation and criticism and carry out free competition and discussion.

- The federation will protect the literary and art workers' democratic rights, including their right to write, to study and to carry out cultural exchanges with foreign artistic organizations, as guaranteed by the country's Constitution.

- If and when these rights are encroached upon, the federation will protect them, even to the extent of filing an appeal to the judicial department.

After it had been forced to suspend its work for more than ten years, the federation resumed activity in 1978. Its present task is: under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, unite all people in the literary and art circles to work for the flourishing of socialist literature and art and for socialist modernization.

A new national committee of 456 members was elected at the recent national congress of writers and artists. There are members from 15 nationalities representing various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. About 50 per cent of them are under 50 and 40 per cent are women.

of Chinese and Western musical instruments to depict present-day Chinese life.

Not Westernization

While Wu Zuqiang supports the idea of "making foreign things serve China," he is against indiscriminate, wholesale adoption. Wu agrees strongly with a statement made by Zhou Yang, Chairman of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, in his report to the Fourth National Congress of Chinese Writers and Artists: We should on the one hand "make foreign things serve China by taking over all that is good from foreign countries and remolding it on the other." We oppose the Westernization of our national culture and art which would be tantamount to losing our own national self-confidence and self-respect.

Fostering Mass Cultural Life

We cannot be satisfied with a host of theatres and cinemas in the big cities. Cultural life has to be fostered in the factories, mines and the vast countryside.

CHINA'S one million professional cultural workers are only a handful when compared with the hundreds of millions of amateur performers among the peasants, workers and other labourers. These contingents enrich the popular cultural life and constitute a great reserve of professional workers.

Just before the congress closed, I met Kang Langshuai, a peasant folk singer of Dai nationality in southwest China's subtropical

(Continued on p. 26.)

China's Procuratorates

— An interview with Chief Procurator Huang Huoqing

The Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress on July 1, 1979 adopted the revised version of the Organic Law of the People's Procuratorates of the People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as the Organic Law) which will go into effect as of January 1, 1980. This is the second organic law of the people's procuratorates since 1954.

What are the characteristics of the new Organic Law? What are the nature, functions and powers and working principles of China's procuratorates? With these questions in mind, our correspondent visited Huang Huoqing, Chief Procurator of the Supreme People's Procuratorate. — Ed.

Nature, Functions and Powers

Question: Would you please explain the nature of China's procuratorates?

Answer: This is explicitly stated in Article 1 of the new Organic Law, which reads: "The people's procuratorates of the People's Republic of China are organs of the state supervising the administration of justice."

There was no such separate article in the first Organic Law of the procuratorates promulgated in 1954, though it was expressed in such functions and powers as the procuratorates' supervision in investigation and judicial process. The nature of the procuratorates was explicitly stipulated in the new Organic Law as a result of summing up the positive and negative experiences of the past 20-odd years. Practice has shown that when judicial supervision is strong, state law can be more properly enforced and people's rights can be well protected. Conversely, when judicial supervision is weakened or abolished, the legal system will be trampled underfoot and there will be loop-



holes for enemies to exploit. In the years when Lin Biao and the gang of four could do as they pleased, there were many cases of people being unjustly, falsely and wrongly charged or sentenced, in large part because the procuratorates had been made inoperative and judicial

supervision had been suspended.

Q: What are the functions and powers of the procuratorates?

A: Our people's procuratorates are state organs exercising procuratorial authority. They have the power to supervise and ensure the correct enforcement of the Constitution and the law and safeguard the unity of the state legal system.

People's procuratorates, by exercising procuratorial authority, suppress all acts of treason, attempts to split the country, and other counter-revolutionary activities; strike at counter-revolutionary elements and other criminals; safeguard the unity of the state, the system of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the socialist legal system; maintain social order; protect the property of socialist ownership by the whole people and of socialist collective ownership by the working people; protect citizens' legitimate private property; protect the right of the person and democracy and other rights of citizens; and guarantee the smooth progress of socialist modernization. Specifically speaking, they exercise the following functions and powers:

— To exercise procuratorial authority in cases of treason and attempts to split the country and major criminal cases of seriously sabotaging the overall implementation of the

policies, laws, decrees and government orders of the state.

— To investigate criminal cases in which the people's procuratorates have taken direct cognizance.

— To examine cases which public security organs have investigated and make decisions on arrests, prosecutions or exemptions from prosecutions; and see to it that the investigations by the public security organs conform to the law.

— To institute or sustain public prosecutions in criminal cases.

— To ensure that the judicial process of the people's court conforms to the law.

— To ensure that the execution of judgments and orders in criminal cases and the activities in prisons, detention houses and establishments in charge of reform through labour conform to the law.

Organizational Principle

Q: How are China's people's procuratorates organized?

A: Nationally, there is the Supreme People's Procuratorate. There are local people's procuratorates at all levels which include:

— People's procuratorates of provinces, national minority autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government.

— Branch people's procuratorates of provinces, national minority autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and people's procuratorates of national minority autonomous prefectures and cities directly under provincial governments;

— People's procuratorates of counties, cities, national minority autonomous counties and municipal districts.

In addition, there are special people's procuratorates which include military procuratorates, railway transport procuratorates and water transport procuratorates.

People's procuratorates at provincial and county levels may set up, as required, people's procuratorates in industrial and mining areas, state farm and land reclamation areas and forest centres as their agencies with the ap-

proval of the standing committees of the people's congresses at the corresponding levels.

Q: What is the organizational principle of the procuratorates?

A: To ensure the exercise of their functions of supervising the administration of justice, the people's procuratorates must have a correct organizational principle. The new Organic Law stipulates that China's procuratorates at various levels are subject to the leadership of the people's procuratorates at the higher levels and to the people's congresses and their standing committees at the corresponding levels.

Here I wish to deal briefly with the changes in this principle at different stages. Shortly after the founding of the People's Republic, China's procuratorates applied the principle of dual leadership. But dual leadership was changed into centralized leadership in the 1954 Constitution which stipulated that the local people's procuratorates at various levels were to work under the leadership of the people's procuratorates at the higher levels and all procuratorates were to work under the direction of the Supreme People's Procuratorate. The 1978 Constitution made some changes in the 1954 stipulation. Specifically, it provided that local people's procuratorates at various levels are responsible and accountable only to the people's congresses at the corresponding levels and that procuratorates at the higher levels only supervise and do not exercise leadership over the procuratorates at the lower levels.

With regard to the people's procuratorates, the changes show that the principle of dual leadership is well suited to China's specific conditions. Its application helps the procuratorates at various levels carry out their functions and powers in the various localities according to law and ensures the unity and concentration of state procuratorial power. For this reason, some related stipulations in the 1978 Constitution were specially revised at the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress held last June.

The new provisions prescribe: "The Supreme People's Procuratorate exercises leadership over the work of local people's procuratorates at various levels and of special people's procuratorates, and the people's procuratorates at the higher levels exercise leadership over the work of those at the lower levels." "The Supreme People's Procuratorate is responsible and

Procuratorates in Beijing

ON December 8 the Beijing People's Procuratorate submitted a written work report to the third session of the Seventh Beijing Municipal People's Congress. The report pointed out:

Between January 10 and the end of October 1979, Beijing's procuratorates investigated and handled 933 applications by the city's public security organs for warrants of arrest. They approved the arrest of 867 suspects whose cases had been investigated and were found at least liable for imprisonment and whose arrest was considered mandatory. They turned down 60 applications for arrest as these fell into the should-not-be and need-not-be arrested categories. Six cases were referred back to the public security organs for further investigations because the main facts about the crimes had not been sufficiently clarified and because of lack of adequate evidence.

The city, district and county procuratorates, in the first ten months of 1979,

had examined 1,351 cases handed in by the public security organs for prosecution. They had decided to bring 1,042 cases for prosecution before the people's court as investigations had established a clear case of criminality, sufficient reliable evidence had been collected and criminal responsibility must be dealt with according to law. The same procuratorates also decided that 132 cases were non-indictable because no criminal responsibility should be pursued according to law, and exempted 56 cases from prosecution because they involved no penalties according to law. The remaining 121 cases were referred back to the public security organs for further investigation.

The report said that since the promulgation of the Regulations of the People's Republic of China Governing the Arrest and Detention of Persons Accused of Crimes in February 1979, the city's procuratorates have joined the public security organs in carrying out an investigation into all persons held in detention to approve arrest or release those who should not be arrested.

accountable to the National People's Congress and its Standing Committee. Local people's procuratorates at various levels are responsible and accountable to the people's congresses and their standing committees at the corresponding levels."

Q: Why have procuratorial committees been set up inside the people's procuratorates? What is the relationship between the procuratorial committees and the chief procurators?

A: Establishing procuratorial committees inside the procuratorates at various levels is an important organizational system of China's procuratorates. If it can be said that the principle of dual leadership of the procuratorates gives expression to the democratic centralism of the state system, then the procuratorial committees set up by the procuratorates give expression to the democratic centralism inside the procuratorates.

The Organic Law of our people's procuratorates stipulates that the procuratorial committees practise democratic centralism and,

under the direction of chief procurators, discuss and decide on major legal cases and other important questions relating to their work. That is to say, important questions are not decided upon by the chief procurators alone but are decided upon through collective discussions according to the principle that the minority are subordinate to the majority. Organizationally, this ensures full practice of democracy. It also helps give full play to collective wisdom and avoids one-sidedness in making decisions by one person so that they may be more accurate.

Of course, if the chief procurator disagrees with the decision of the majority on important questions, he can submit his objections to the standing committee of the people's congress at the corresponding level for a decision. In such an instance, the chief procurator's responsibility will be heavier.

Everybody Is Equal Before the Law

Q: What are the working principles of China's procuratorates?

A: There are mainly three principles:

1. Seeking truth from facts, following the mass line and relying on evidence rather than confessions.

2. Adhering to the principle that the law is applied equally to all citizens. No privilege is allowed.

3. Exercising procuratorial authority independently.

Q: Why is it necessary to stress these principles?

A: These principles have been worked out according to China's historical experiences and present conditions. For instance, the principle that the law is applied equally to all citizens was laid down in the 1954 Organic Law. But because the phenomenon of seeking privileges was not obvious at that time, the significance of this principle was not fully recognized. After drawing lessons from the actions of Lin Biao and the gang of four who feverishly sought personal privileges and trampled the legal system and democracy underfoot, we came to a profound understanding of the importance of combating the practice of seeking personal privileges and adhering to the principle that the law is applied equally to all citizens.

It should be pointed out that it is of extreme immediate significance to further stress opposition to privileges in our law. At present, in our country, there still exist feudalist ideas, bureaucracy, the special privilege mentality and patriarchal behaviour—all historical legacies. Because the pernicious influence resulting from the sabotage of democracy and the legal system by Lin Biao and the gang of four has not been eliminated, some cadres, to a serious extent, still take the legal system lightly, substitute their words for the law and do not act according to the law. A few persons even regard what they say as the law and brand whoever goes against their will as violators of the law. Without stressing these principles and waging struggles against the mentality of seeking personal privileges, it will be impossible to safeguard the dignity of the state law and protect people's rights. Moreover, even the destiny of our Party and state may be adversely affected.

For this reason, our cadres working in the procuratorates are required to defy influential officials and not let personal considerations sway them. In exercising procuratorial author-

ity, they should unswervingly implement the principle that the law is applied equally to all citizens and carry the struggle against personal privileges through to the end.

Exercising Procuratorial Authority Independently

Q: What's the significance of exercising procuratorial authority independently by the procuratorates?

A: The new Organic Law stipulates: "People's procuratorates exercise their procuratorial authority independently in accordance with the law, and are not subject to interference by administrative organs, organizations or individuals." This stipulation is, likewise, of great immediate significance, because there actually exists the phenomenon of interfering in procuratorial work. If the procuratorates cannot exercise their procuratorial authority independently or if they are influenced and interfered with by others, they cannot be loyal to the law and the people and therefore cannot faithfully perform their sacred duty of supervising the administration of justice.

How to Pronounce the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet

Following is part of the Chinese phonetic alphabet showing the pronunciation with approximate English equivalents. Spelling in the Wade system is in brackets for reference.

"c" (ts), a consonant, as "ts" in its; and

"e" (e), a vowel, as "er" in her, the "r" being silent; but "ie", a diphthong, as in yes and "ei", a diphthong, as in way;

"i" (i), a vowel, two pronunciations:

1) as in eat

2) as in sir in syllables beginning with the consonants c, ch, r, s, sh, z and zh;

"j" (ch), a consonant, as in jeep;

"q" (ch), a consonant, as "ch" in cheek;

"x" (j), a consonant pronounced as "r" but not rolled, or like "z" in azure;

"u" (u), a vowel, as in too, also as in the French "u" in "tu" or the German umlauted "u" in "Muenchen";

"x" (hs), a consonant, as "sh" in she;

"z" (ts, tz), a consonant, as in zero; and

"zh" (ch), a consonant, as "j" in jump.

Visiting Lao Refugee Camps in Thailand

Xinhua Correspondents Chen Boliang and Liu Zhengchu report from Bangkok:

WITH hundreds of thousands of refugees pouring into Thailand from all parts of Indochina to seek a haven from the Vietnamese scourge, more and more camps for Kampuchean and Lao refugees have been set up. A few weeks ago we visited three camps for Lao refugees located in northeast Thailand.

We learnt that some 250,000 Lao refugees had crossed the Mekong River into Thailand during the last four years. A Thai official told us that the flow has increased since the beginning of this year with an average of over 1,000 Lao refugees fleeing into Thailand each month. The three camps we visited accommodate more than 100,000 Lao refugees, two-thirds the total number of Lao refugees in the country.

In these camps were many young people who had left their homeland to escape the draft. A local Thai official reported that in the first two weeks of November more than 600 Lao youth fled into Thailand's northeastern provinces of Ubon and Nong Kai. Under Hanoi's dictates, the Lao authorities have time and again pressganged young Laos over the age of 13 into the army or forced them to undergo military training. A refugee named Khamphu from Vientiane told us that 8,000 students in the Lao capital had been conscripted and that some of them had been sent to Viet Nam for military training before going to fight for the Vietnamese in Kampuchea.

The refugees in the camps bitterly denounced the crimes of the Vietnamese authorities. They pointed out that Hanoi's military occupation of Laos and suppression of the people was the root cause of the exodus of refugees from Laos. Yong Seng, a refugee from one of the national minorities in Xieng Khouang Province, told us: "The Vietnamese troops have been pushing their plan to exterminate the minority nationalities in Laos. They carried out frequent mopping-up operations in the mountainous areas in my province and had their aircraft spray toxic chemicals and gases to kill the local people."

Accounts of Vietnamese atrocities were numerous. One refugee from Vientiane spoke about a large amount of U.N. relief grain being grabbed by the Vietnamese as soon as it arrived in Laos with only a very small proportion ever reaching those Lao people who were in dire need. A refugee from Phong Saly revealed that the Vietnamese and Lao authorities had driven almost all the people out of Phong Saly city into the countryside on the pretext that China was preparing to attack Laos. He added: "The people of the city don't believe such a lie. They are clearly aware that such a rumour was concocted for sabotaging the profound friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples."

At the Nong Kai refugee camp, we met some Lao technicians who had studied in France. One said: "We have planned to dedicate our knowledge and technical know-how learnt in France to the motherland. But now Vietnamese 'advisers' can be seen everywhere and we must obey them and are under their control. We will not serve the Vietnamese because Laos belongs to the Lao people and not the Vietnamese." Some of these technicians were compelled to flee their country only four months after their return to their motherland.

The refugees charged that the Vietnamese authorities have turned Laos into a new type of colony. They cited how Hanoi has sent "advisers" to all echelons of Lao military, government and economic organizations. They have even been attached to troops at company level and to villages. All this has been done in the name of "assisting Laos in construction" or "safeguarding the special relations between the two countries." No section of Laos is without the presence of Vietnamese troops. Strategically important areas such as the Plain of Jars, Xieng Khouang, Khang Khay and Phong Savane are all heavily garrisoned. Vietnamese servicemen run amuck in Lao cities and their barracks and outposts are quite conspicuous in Vientiane and its suburbs. Vietnamese soldiers patrol stretches of Highways 13, 7 and 9 and reinforcements have been sent to the Lao-Thai border, as well as to posts along the Mekong River.

A refugee who fled from Pakse in southern Laos told us how the Vietnamese authorities were using Laos as a base for invading Kampuchea. They have concentrated troops and stored large quantities of weapons, ammunition and food along the Lao-Kampuchean border. He further stated: "The Vietnamese troops stepped up their transport of ammunition and food to Kampuchea's Stung Treng and Preah Vihear Provinces and many Vietnamese ag-

gressor troops in Kampuchea came to Lao territory for rest and regrouping."

Despite the virtual occupation of their country, many refugees are quite optimistic that the situation can be reversed. We often heard people vow: "Genuine patriots in Laos will never tolerate the evil doings of the Vietnamese troops on Lao soil." "Some day the Lao people will drive out the Vietnamese and become the real masters of their motherland."

Unstable Situation in Guatemala

THE Guatemalan situation has grown unstable since the downfall of the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua and the military coup in neighbouring El Salvador.

In early November, a big funeral was held for a murdered journalist in the city of Guatemala by students, workers, industrialists and members of the opposition parties. This was considered as a demonstration against the government.

Earlier, more than 50,000 citizens in the capital had staged a masked demonstration against their growing impoverishment. Doctors and teachers have also gone on strikes frequently.

In March, in the Panzos region in the northern mountainous areas, thousands of Indians waged struggles to seize land to cultivate. They were suppressed by the armed forces and police.

Noteworthy is the resurgence of vigorous guerrilla activities in urban and rural areas which were suppressed ten years ago. The guerrilla forces of the impoverished in the northern mountainous areas are the most militant. Their number has grown to over 1,000. Their main mode of operation is kidnapping and assassination. They also frequently attack the big estates and ambush government troops. Recently they kidnapped a millionaire and one of the President's private secretaries. They also secretly executed the former chief of staff of the government army. They have appealed to other anti-government organizations for joint action against the ruling junta.

The Guatemalan armed forces have governed the country for the past 25 years. Contradictions between them and members of other social strata have been growing sharper. Some high-ranking officers in power have taken possession of large tracts of land and made huge profits. Some of them own 10,000 to 40,000 hectares of land, and some even have huge deposits in foreign banks. In the past 25 years, at least 70,000 people have died as a result of direct suppression by the military government.

All major economic activities have been under the control of 39 dominant clans and there is fierce political and economic rivalry between the traditional oligopoly groups and the rising bureaucratic bourgeoisie. Some oligopoly groups have formed their own paramilitary terrorist organizations. In the first half of this year alone, these groups have assassinated, kidnapped or injured over 1,000 people.

Inside the armed forces, relations are growing increasingly tense between the senior officers and the younger officers who are dissatisfied with the present situation of the country.

Of the 6.40 million population in Guatemala, over 60 per cent are Indians (Mayas), and over 66 per cent are illiterate. Most of the peasants own no land and more than half the population who have to earn their own living are unemployed. Inflation is high and the people lead a wretched existence.

The situation in Guatemala is holding the attention of many American countries.

— by Xin Ping

South Africa's "Constellation" Programme

THE South African racist regime is vigorously pushing the "constellation of southern African countries" plan. It is a strategic plan to form a southern African military and economic alliance controlled by Pretoria.

In a defence white paper published last April, South Africa's Prime Minister P.W. Botha broached the "concept of mutual defence against a common enemy" and a "geo-economic community of interests" in southern Africa.

Later he told parliament that South Africa would work towards a "constellation of southern African states" and the signing of a "non-aggression pact" by a "co-operating" bloc of southern African states.

The official weekly *Beeld* said that "the idea of the formation of a southern African bloc becomes increasingly relevant politics."

Aim. The South African authorities have failed to set up a "buffer zone" on the northern border because of the mounting liberation struggles of the Zimbabwean and Namibian peoples and the intensifying rivalry there between the two superpowers. In replacing a "buffer zone" scheme with the "constellation" plan, South Africa has its ambitious strategic aim.

To boost its tottering racist rule, the Pretoria regime wants to form a military and economic alliance of racist forces in the region with itself as the mainstay; it also attempts to subject neighbouring African states to economic control and plunder by dragging them into the alliance.

In addition, to extricate itself from an increasingly isolated situation in Africa and the world, it wants to create the false impression that South Africa is on "friendly terms" with other African states.

Reaction. Waving the olive branch of "peace," "friendship" and "co-operation," the South African regime is trying to woo the neighbouring independent African countries with its constellation scheme. But seeing large numbers

of black brothers in South Africa still groaning under racist rule, the African countries which had once suffered from racist and colonialist domination will not be fooled.

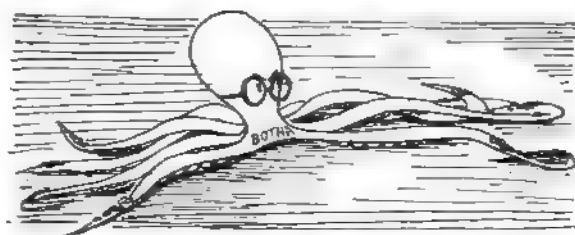
The scheme met with strong condemnation and opposition from African countries as soon as it was announced. Zambian President Kaunda denounced it as a dangerous South African plot to overthrow the legitimate governments of Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and other neighbouring countries and incorporate them as Pretoria's satellites into the constellation scheme.

The Botswana Government issued a statement opposing this scheme.

Lesotho Foreign Minister Charles Molapo said that his country rejected the "constellation of southern African states" plan concocted by the South African racist regime. "We wish apartheid would go the way of all flesh," he stressed.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning the South African plan to create a "constellation of states" in southern Africa as a scheme for the perpetuation of racist rule.

For historical and geographical reasons, several southern African countries are still subjected to South African economic control and exploitation. They have been calling for closer unity and co-operation to resist South African blackmail and control. Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Angola held the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference in Dar-es-Salaam last July which adopted a declaration entitled



"Southern Africa: Towards Economic Liberation." Quett Masire, Vice-President of Botswana and chairman of the conference, pointed out that "southern African regional development must be designed and implemented by southern Africans." "We must free our economies from dependence on South Africa, overcome the imposed economic fragmentation and co-

ordinate our regional and national development," he said.

Expressing clearly their firm determination to develop their economies independently and freely, these countries have dealt a powerful blow to the expansionist "constellation" scheme of South Africa.

— by Xin Ping

Foreign Investments in the United States Increase

DIRECT foreign investments in the United States increased 12.4 per cent in 1977 and 18 per cent in 1978 while direct U.S. investments abroad in the two years only went up 10 and 12 per cent. This indicates a new international economic trend against the background of unbalanced economic development in the capitalist world—the weakening position of the U.S. economy and the ever-growing economic strength of Western Europe and Japan.

Recent data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce show that in 1978 alone, direct foreign investments in the United States increased by 6,236 million dollars, thus bringing the accumulative total to 40,831 million dollars—an increase of more than 185 per cent over the 1972 total of 14,300 million dollars.

At the end of last year, 68 per cent of the direct foreign investments in the United States (about 27,895 million dollars) came from such Western countries as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada, West Germany and Switzerland, in order of the size of their investments there. Most of these investments were in the manufacturing, trade and petroleum sectors. About 62 per cent of the total direct foreign investments are in the chemical, electrical, metal-processing and electronic machine-building industries.

The reason behind this massive increase of direct foreign investments is that foreign investors want to break through the U.S.-imposed protectionist measures and to enhance the competitiveness of their own goods. By setting up factories in the United States, they can cut costs by making full use of favourable local

conditions and avoid poorly planned production and the ensuing waste by improving their adaptability to the needs of the market. The decline in the dollar's position and the rise in the value of the Japanese and some West European currencies have also encouraged many countries to invest in the United States.

With the total amount of direct foreign investments in the United States only one-quarter the total direct U.S. investments abroad, U.S. authorities believe that at the present stage the increase of direct foreign investments in the United States does not constitute a threat to the country's economy but is conducive to the improvement of the adverse U.S. international payments picture and to the strengthening of the dollar's position. At the same time, it will also help expand employment, promote production, stimulate the market, and increase revenue from taxes. With this in mind, the United States has taken measures to encourage foreign investments except in a few key sectors where limitations on foreign capital have been imposed.

It can, therefore, be safely said that the tendency towards a rise in direct foreign investments in the United States will continue to develop. This tendency reflects a more extensive and acute contention for world markets under the new historical conditions characterized by an unbalanced economic development of capitalism. In these conditions, not only the third world and the second world, but even the United States itself has become an arena of competition for international capital. Such a development will have an important impact on the economic relations among the Western countries.

OPEC CONFERENCE

No Agreement on Unified Price

The four days' meeting of the 55th Conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Caracas, Venezuela, failed to reach any agreement on fixing a unified oil price.

Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Humberto Calderon Berti, the current OPEC president, afterwards told reporters that the failure left OPEC nations free to set their own prices.

The main stumbling block to setting a price, in the opinion of the Energy and Mines Minister, was the question of differentials which have been traditionally applied to different oils to reflect quality and proximity to the consuming nations. But Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Yazi Yamani stated that the main reason was the instability of the market and consumers' failure to curtail their use of oil.

He also declared at a press conference that Saudi crude oil would remain at 24 U.S. dollars a barrel for at least the first quarter of 1980.

Referring to the question of OPEC's relations with other developing countries, Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins said, "It is of prime interest that we maintain a united front against the industrialized countries. The developing nations are our natural allies in this struggle. If we fail to win their understanding and support, the manoeuvre under way to isolate us from the rest of the world may be successful." He called upon OPEC members to set up a bank

with 20,000 million dollars in assets to aid the developing countries suffering from the impact of high oil prices.

The conference finally decided to add 1,600 million dollars to the OPEC special fund, as aid to developing countries. It also approved in principle a joint Venezuelan-Algerian plan to set up a development agency with 20,000 million dollars in assets.

PANAMA

Different Reactions to Presence of Pahlavi

The Panamanian Government's decision to allow the former Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, to reside in the country has aroused both popular support and strong opposition.

Appearing with Pahlavi at a press conference on December 16, Panamanian President Aristides Royo, in reply to a question about the reason for the decision, stated that his government hoped to contribute to the solution of a world crisis. The Democratic Revolutionary Party, Panama's ruling party, sent a message to the political parties of some Latin American countries reporting that this action was taken "in co-operation with other countries to ease international tension, in circumstances of an imminent danger of conflict of grave consequences for the greater part of mankind."

The Panamanian press has expressed support in editorials or commentaries. *Critica* held that the government decision is "a move in exercise of full sovereignty." *La Estrella de Panama* pointed out that the attitude of the Panamanian Government towards the former Shah of Iran "demonstrates the independent

character of our foreign policy and our intention to safeguard world peace." *El Matutino* said that by agreeing to accept the former Shah, Panama is playing "the role of emissary of peace and international harmony."

Meanwhile, the Federation of Students of Panama issued a statement expressing "strong indignation" at the government decision. Several hundred students demonstrated for three days in succession in protest against the government move.

Pahlavi left the United States for Panama on December 15. He is now living in Contadora Island, 50 kilometres away from Panama city.

JAPAN

Miyamoto's Visit to Soviet Union

The Japanese Communist Party delegation headed by Kenji Miyamoto ended talks with the Soviet Communist Party delegation headed by Leonid Brezhnev and left Moscow for home on December 24.

It is said that no progress was made in the talks over the crucial question of Japan's four northern islands.

A concession in the talks was the Soviet Party declaring its recognition of the Japanese Communist Party as "the only political party representing the communist movement in Japan" and revoking its recognition of the organization formed by those who had withdrawn from the Communist Party of Japan.

Commenting on the meeting, *Mainichi Shimbun* said that the superpower Soviet chauvinist wall was too high and too thick for the supposedly fraternal Japanese Communist Party to overcome.

● **Home of Pandas**

The Wolong area in Sichuan Province is being turned into a protected wildlife reserve.

This was where giant pandas were first discovered. When female giant pandas were carrying their young, scientists "bugged" a pregnant panda's lair to collect data on panda movements before and after birth.

In this home of the giant pandas, the mountains and valleys are covered with virgin forests, and there are swift rivers, quiet lakes and hot springs.

Thirty kinds of rare animals there are protected. In addition to the giant pandas, there are golden monkeys, white-lipped deer and snow leopards. More than 5,000 species of plants, including the Chinese yew (taxus), Sichuan redwood and spruce, are found here.

Plant nurseries and deciduous tree seedling farms have been established in this 200,000-hectare reserve. The projects now under construction include farms to breed and raise giant pandas and pheasants, botanical and fauna exhibition

centres and a meteorological station. Plans are being made to construct a large outdoor farm for raising various rare animals, three botanical gardens at different altitudes and hotels for visiting scientists and tourists.

The Wolong Reserve lies between the Qinghai Plateau and the Sichuan basin. The highest point there is 6,200 metres above sea level and the lowest 1,100. The climate is warm, with abundant rainfall and a fairly constant temperature throughout the year. The topography and geology also favour the protection, propagation and multiplication of animals and plants native to this area.

Research is being carried on by scientists in Wolong and 12 other reserves in Sichuan Province.

● **Abacus Association Set Up**

The China Abacus Association has been established in the coastal city of Qinhuangdao, north China.

The abacus, China's ancient calculating tool, is still used by 20 million accountants and other people throughout China,

in spite of the rapid development of computers. It is easier and faster to use in simple addition and subtraction.

Primary schools in China teach pupils to use the abacus. This also helps them develop their intelligence.

The association will publish a magazine and organize academic exchanges with foreign abacus enthusiasts to popularize the use of this calculating tool.

● **Miniature Landscapes**

Potted landscape is a traditional Chinese garden art in which miniature trees and rocks are used to capture the spirit of natural landscapes. Their wonderful artistry reproduces the forested mountain outdoor in miniature for enjoyment indoors.

The art of miniature landscapes has existed in China for 1,300 years. It first appeared in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and developed in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) to reach flourishing maturity in the Ming (1368-1644) and the Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties.

After the founding of New China, horticulturists freed

Left: A view of the Wolong Reserve. Right: Golden monkeys on the reserve.



their minds to weed through the old and bring forth the new. Years of practice have evolved a unique style and techniques.

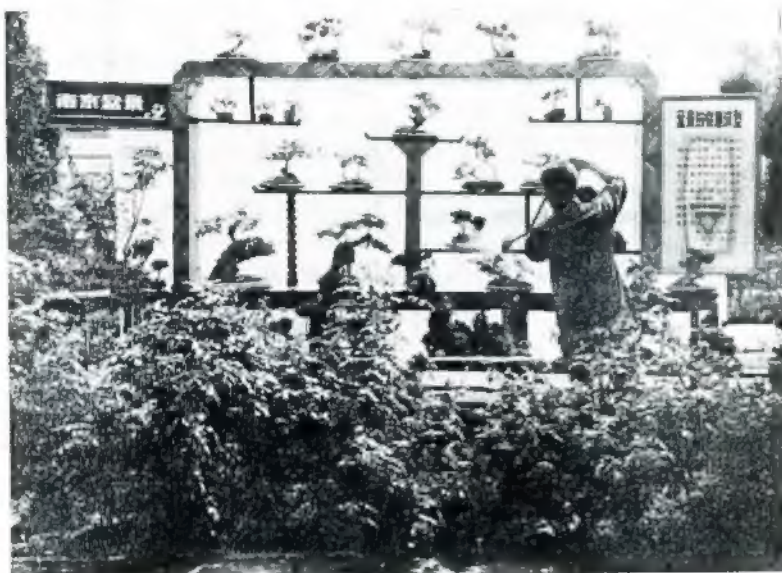
There are two broad categories. The first is potted landscapes composed mainly of miniature trees which give pleasure by the form and arrangement of roots, trunks, leaves, flowers and fruit. The artists select the trees which have certain attractive characteristics, a short trunk and small leaves, a long life and great bending capacity. These trees are patiently and carefully cultivated and trained through years of controlled growth to attain their desired shapes.

The other category of potted landscapes is made up of miniature rocks and small plants modelled upon natural landscapes. There is something unique about the style of the potted landscapes.

China's potted landscapes are produced in many places. Guangdong Province produces a huge variety of miniature trees. Those from Guangxi are evocative of picturesque Guilin, and the ones from Sichuan have their own distinctive local style. A new kind of miniature

landscape made of woodstone from the Changbai Mountains has been added to China's long list of different kinds of potted landscapes.

China's potted landscapes are popular at home and abroad because of their exquisite artistry.



Nanjing miniature landscapes at a national exhibition.

(Continued from p. 15.)

Xishuangbanna, at a tea party given by the Ministry of Culture. He is well known locally for his singing, his reciting of long poems and his story telling. This 68-year-old man is now writing a lengthy narrative poem entitled *The Pearl in the Forests* for the occasion of the Dai New Year.

Jiang Xiuzhen from east China's Anhui Province recited a poem she had composed while flying to Beijing to attend the congress: "We will contribute all our energy and wisdom to compose militant new songs for the four modernizations." The 45-year-old woman singer began her career when she was young. Later, she learnt to sing the local *huangmei* opera. She is now acclaimed as one of the best singers in China.

Today, China's labouring people are demanding a greater variety of cultural performances. The cultural autocracy, which lasted from 1966 to 1976, did great damage to popular cultural life. People quickly got tired of slogan-

packed songs and the limited number of operas during that period. Popular culture was in sore need of revitalization.

At present, the state-run cultural palaces in more than 2,000 counties throughout the country have been reorganized and various kinds of cultural activities restored. In the countryside, cultural centres run by people's communes and with government help have become grounds for reports, forums and slide and film shows, as well as for rehearsals, performances, libraries, exhibitions and other cultural activities.

One of the main tasks set forth for cultural workers at the recent congress is to sell books and give performances and film showings in the countryside, factories, mines and P.L.A. units. In addition, they should help the workers, peasants and soldiers in their spare-time cultural activities.

Chinese literary and art undertakings will flourish with a hundred flowers blossoming. Popular culture in the factories, mines and rural areas will surely thrive.



LETTERS FROM READERS

A Year in Retrospect

In all cases of national and international interests *Beijing Review* has shown much attention with clear articles, with citations from the press of the whole world and official documents, and with good and sometimes moving photographs.

In the last year *Beijing Review* has become more systematic and easier to read.

R. Bekink
The Hague,
The Netherlands

Comparing the improvement you have made this year with your issues of the previous years, we find that your weekly has made great progress. You have paid more attention to facts and done much to dispel the doubts caused by those who oppose facts and are hostile to the Chinese people and the people of the whole world.

Farhat Ali
Casablanca, Morocco

I first bought your magazine in order to balance the anti-China reports we get in our local publications, and after much reading of local reports and yours I have come to the conclusion that your *Beijing Review* gives reliable and accurate reports about world events and particularly those concerning China.

K. W. Beanham
Victoria, Australia

Suffice it to say that I've been pleasantly surprised by the journalistic fairness displayed in your writings. The stigma of the yellow menace from the east still pervades the Western countries. It is through efforts such as yours that myths like this one will be dispelled. Please do everything you can to present your

views as fairly and truthfully as possible.

Anthony Woods
Seattle, U.S.A.

Since we started the column "Letters From Readers," we've received much support from our readers. Hereby we express our thanks. We hope that more readers will take part in the discussions so as to make this column more lively. Wishing you a happy New Year. — Ed.

Human Rights

I was very interested to read the article entitled "Notes on the Human Rights Question" in issue No. 45. I was most impressed to see you clearly outline the theoretical basis and political and judicial realities of your Party's and government's policy on what is a highly controversial question. This article left me in no doubt as to where the Chinese Government stands on this question and left me to form my own opinions on the subject.

The article entitled "The People's Verdict—Wei Jingsheng's Appeal Rejected," clearly showed the realities of how the Chinese judicial system implements the laws which you had outlined only a week before and which showed Wei Jingsheng to be clearly guilty under Chinese law.

Tim Chamberlain
Andover, United Kingdom

I cannot accept your views in the article "Notes on the Human Rights Question" (issue No. 45) that according to Marxist theory democratic freedoms (freedom of speech, freedom of the press and so forth) are merely bourgeois phraseology and that the bourgeoisie advocates human rights for the sake of exploitation. But why then can't Communists advocate human rights for their just ideals? You are trying to prove that it is bad because it is in the hands of bad people. But why do you proceed from theory and not from the life of the people? There are things which are not necessarily bad simply because they are condemned in "books."

A. Djavadi
Koln, West Germany

Economy

The article "A Study in the Planned Management of the Socialist Economy" by Xue Muqiao

(issue No. 43) pointed out that "we must not assume that establishing the socialist public ownership of the means of production automatically gives full rein to the superiority of the socialist system." It is true that difficulties do arise in the course of socialist construction. In trying to overcome these difficulties, through concerted efforts, your people are setting a good example of socialism and show to the people of your neighbouring country Japan the road of advance.

Kiyotaro Tanaka
Fukuoka, Japan

China's socialist construction will lose its orientation if it is not carried out in conjunction with the criticism of Soviet revisionism and Lin Biao and the gang of four.

The three articles—"Sun Yefang's Essays Published" (issue No. 37), "A Study in the Planned Management of the Socialist Economy" by Xue Muqiao (issue No. 43) and "Modernization: the Chinese Way" by Sun Shangqing (issue No. 45)—have the same mistake. In a sense, it may be said they have not given proper attention to Marxist theory on economy and have distorted the law of value expounded in *Capital*.

Hiroyuki Inukai
Aichi, Japan

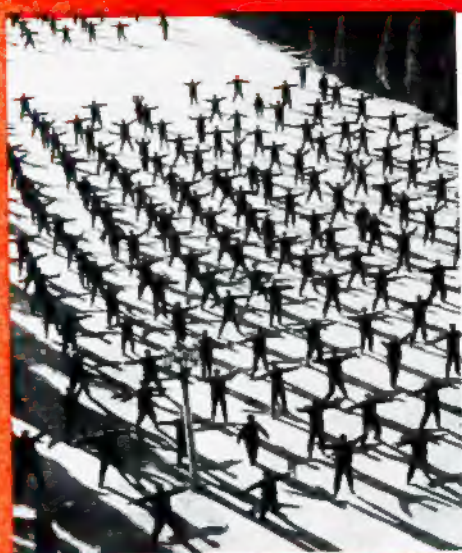
Youth

I am very much interested in the special feature on China's younger generation, especially the articles "Young Workers Defy Death Sentence" and "From Embezzler to College Student."

Najab Ahmed
Taza, Morocco

I hope your journal will publish reports on Chinese youth in various walks of life—students, workers, commune members and soldiers—the history and development of the Chinese youth movement, their contributions to the revolution, their role in the four modernizations drive, and the tasks and grass-roots organizations of the Communist Youth League and the characteristics of the leadership it provides. I think this is also a task of your journal.

Eliseo Sanabria E.
Barcelona, Spain



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